Ready for Work

More than 2,000 people found a job thanks to Ready for Work 2001–2011

Help us reach 4,000 into work by 2016
Building skills, changing lives

What we do
We believe that work is the best route out of homelessness and social exclusion.

Since 2001, through the Ready for Work programme, we have been working with companies to give people with significant barriers to work the chance they need to gain valuable skills and experience for the workplace.

Homelessness or the risk of becoming homeless affects the people we help. The other challenges they face are very different, from poor qualifications and long-term unemployment to unspent convictions and former drug and alcohol abuse.

But everyone we help has one thing in common – a strong desire to make a better life for themselves through work.

“Being back at work and getting up in the morning is great – I look forward to the day ahead.”

Ready for Work client, former rough sleeper, unemployed for 2 years

“It felt really good to be working and making a difference. I was really proud of myself.”

Ready for Work client, ‘sofa surfer’ with unspent convictions

250+ people move into work each year

75% sustain work for at least 3 months

58% sustain work for at least 6 months

35% sustain work for at least 12 months

20% of all clients enter education, training or volunteering

The Ready for Work programme

Ensuring work-readiness
Ready for Work managers meet prospective clients to make sure that they are ‘work ready’.

Professional training
Topics covered include self-esteem, motivational skills, expected workplace behaviour, CV and interview skills.

Companies help by hosting training, and employee volunteers provide valuable practical support.
How your business can make a difference

There are lots of ways that you can help people back to work through Ready for Work. What’s more, your company will benefit too.

- Sponsor a Ready for Work programme or client
- Host training at your office
- Provide two-week work placements and employee volunteers to support them
- Share job vacancies with Business in the Community
- Train staff to act as job coaches to Ready for Work clients
- Develop and deliver skills training modules
- Provide pro bono support, e.g. marketing, PR
- Become a national or regional strategic partner

How your business will benefit

- Professional and personal staff development
- Increased job satisfaction and staff loyalty
- Demonstrate your commitment to your local community
- Cost-effective recruitment
- Increased staff diversity

I feel nothing but pride and satisfaction from my involvement. Ready for Work is incredibly rewarding.

John Currie, Project Manager, Carillion

Employees volunteering with Ready for Work benefit from core skills development:

91% reported improved relationship building skills
88% are better at maximising the performance of others
81% said volunteering improved their influencing and negotiation skills
78% reported an improvement in communication skills

How your business can make a difference

Two-week work placements

Companies provide a trained ‘buddy’ to support and encourage clients on placement, give constructive feedback and a written reference to help in their future job search.

Support to gain and sustain work

Access to job coaches, job seeking support and further training.

Companies help by providing employee volunteers to act as job coaches, and hosting and delivering training.
Doing Ready for Work has confirmed to me that I can be an excellent employee, given the right opportunity.

Ready for Work client, former rough sleeper