

Business in the Community's employer-led Ready for Work programme has supported thousands of people to overcome the barriers they face and gain employment. Where did we begin?

Business Action on Homelessness campaign begins. Initial research undertaken by Bain & Company, led by John Studzinski, resulting from HRH's Seeing is Believing Programme.

1998

1999

2000

Ready for Work programme launches in 6 cities. Founding placement provider, Marks & Spencer pledge to offer 1000 work placements over 3 years.

2001

2002

Ready for Work programme pilot takes place. 10 placements offered by 4 supporting businesses. 9 out of 10 clients complete the programme.

2003

Two-day pre-placement training developed in conjunction with Leadership Team companies to provide extra support for clients before placement.

Marks & Spencer launch Marks & Start, modelled on the Ready for Work programme. Marks & Start involves Princes Trust, Gingerbread and Disabled & Go (and then Remploy in 2011) alongside Business in the Community as the initial partner.

2004

Post-placement (job coaching) is rolled out by Cadbury Trebor Bassett and KPMG after being piloted in 2004.

2005

John Varley, Group Chief Executive of Barclays, is appointed Chair of the BAOH Leadership Team. Carillion and Royal Mail sign up as National Partners.

2006

1000th Ready for Work graduate gains employment.

2007

National Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP integrates its own work experience programme with Ready for Work in order to support more people.

2008

Business Action on Homelessness campaign publishes Making Work, Work in partnership with New Economics Foundation. This important work influences Government over the need to ensure work pays.

2009

2000th Ready for Work graduate gains employment.

2010

National Partner, Accenture become a National Partner.

2011

Ready for Work programme celebrates its 10th anniversary. Ready for Work Clubs launched to offer greater post-placement support.

2012

Social Return on Investment research shows that Ready for Work provides at least £3.12 in benefits to society for every £1 invested.

2013

5,000th Ready for Work placement completed by people facing, on average, four significant barriers to employment. Alliane Boots and Sodexo join the leadership team.

2014

3000th Ready for Work graduate gains employment in January 2014. With your help, we look forward to growing Ready for Work even more.

