

Specialist Disability Employment Support: Residential Training Colleges

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Background

Residential Training Colleges offer a service very different from the rest of the Department's specialist disability employment programmes, both in the length of courses and in the approach taken. They provide vocational training and support to unemployed disabled adults with the most severe barriers to employment whose needs cannot be met through any other DWP-funded provision.

Courses are tailored to each individual and duration varies to ensure customer needs are met. Maximum length of stay on a course is 52 weeks.

There are nine Residential Training colleges which are concentrated in the East and South of England. There are no colleges located in the North West of England, Scotland or Wales – although one of the colleges now operates “satellite offices” in Cardiff and Warrington.

Methodology

The source of this data is the annual report compiled by the Residential Training Unit – the organisation which oversees the DWP-funded elements of Residential Training Colleges.

Key Figures¹ – Residential Training Colleges

The table below summarise the key figures on Residential Training Colleges.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Starts	770	840	840
Completions	820	630	620
Jobs	430	310	230
Sustained Job	200	230	150

Figures are round to the nearest 10.

A **start** is defined as a client having begun the programme, drawn up an action plan and completed two weeks on the programme.

A **completion** is when a client has achieved their action plan and left the programme

A **job** is classed as being in employment for at least 16 hours per week

A **sustained job** is being employed for 13 weeks in the 26 week period after leaving the programme.

The maximum duration of a spell at a Residential Training College is 52 weeks.

The figures in the table above are not cohort based. For example, a person may start the programme in a particular year, but they may not complete the programme until the following financial year.

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¹ Source: Residential Training Unit (RTC), taken from MI returns from Residential Training Colleges.