

# SRB5 Employment Links Evaluation and Review

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

## Brief

Rochdale Partnership appointed BE Group to evaluate and review the SRB5 'Revitalising Inner Rochdale' Employment Links project.

The objective was to examine the achievements, activities and operation of Employment Links over three years (from April 2002). The key aims of the evaluation were to:

- Assess whether objectives have been achieved
- Examine the quality of the service
- Recommend improvements.

The project is a 'one stop shop' for information, advice and guidance that helps the residents of inner Rochdale get training and jobs.

## Activities

- Consultation took place with staff at Employment Links, users of the service and local employers.
- Examined Delivery Plans, Monitoring Reports, System K and Skills Databases.
- Ten percent of the people getting jobs were contacted to verify project outputs.
- Nationwide review of best practice in employment schemes.



## Outcome

Overall, Employment Links is broadly achieving what it set out to do: getting people into employment and training.

However, a number of issues were identified to be resolved in the project's forward strategy. These include:

- Significant concerns regarding monitoring of the project
- Inconsistencies in data collection and project outputs
- Divorced and fragmented project management
- Lack of a project coordinator
- Significant underspend of SRB5 funds.

