



Introduction

This is a review of the second year's work of the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force (EMETF) and follows the *Year 1 Progress Report*, published November 2004, available on the Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force website¹. A full report on the achievements of the Task Force will be published in 2006.

The Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force was set up to deliver the recommendations of the 2003 Strategy Unit report: *Ethnic Minorities and the Labour Market*². It is chaired by Department for Work and Pension's (DWP) Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform with a membership of Ministers from HM Treasury (HMT), Department for Education and Skills (DfES), Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), Home Office (HO), Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and representatives from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Trades Union Congress (TUC), Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), National Employment Panel (NEP) and the Task Force Stakeholder Group. The Task Force is advised by a group of senior officials drawn from these Departments and bodies.

The Strategy Unit report concluded that one government department alone cannot succeed in closing the longstanding 'employment gap' between people from ethnic minority backgrounds and the rest of the population. It promoted a cross-Whitehall approach to help break down the barriers faced by ethnic minority people in the labour market and identified three key areas for concerted action:

- Building Employability: ensuring people have the necessary education and skills to get and keep jobs;
- Connecting People to Work; helping people, especially those living in the most disadvantaged areas, to find jobs; and
- Equal Opportunities in the Workplace: ensuring that people are not disadvantaged when finding work and gaining promotion because they come from an ethnic minority group.

This report looks first at progress made on the three strands of work identified by the Strategy Unit and then considers new developments and actions that build on and take the work forward.

¹ www.emtaskforce.gov.uk

² Available on the Task Force website