

# A WINNER FOR ROCHDALE

## Social Enterprise of the Year



On Thursday the 12th March 2009 the BME North West Business Awards organised by the Ethnic Minority Business Forum (EMBF), took place at Manchester United Theatre of Dreams in front of over 500 business and community leaders. Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive of the NWDA, the main sponsor of EMBF Awards, said: "The 2009 Awards recognise the very best of the region's BME business community and celebrate the cultural diversity of England's Northwest. We hope these awards will spark the imagination of budding entrepreneurs and encourage others to set up or expand businesses in the region."

There were a number of awards to recognize BME businesses across the North West with an extremely high caliber of talented individuals and businesses being considered. This indicates the strength in depth of the North West's public and private sector talent that will overcome the global downturn that affects so many of us. Competition was keen for such prestigious awards.

The winner of the Social Enterprise of the Year was Rochdale's own Castlemere Community Centre! This is a prestigious nationally recognised event and the award recognises the outstanding success of the centre. Awarded to an organisation set up in the community by the community and for the benefit of the community. This award is given to a business that was set up to address a community need and subsequently has shown outstanding success in meeting that need.

This is a unique organisation, owned, run and managed by the local community and a credit to the People of Rochdale. It has developed from a derelict shell to a high quality self sustaining flagship resource used by many individuals and organisations today. It remains directed by the community that owns it and is delivering services and providing resources to people who are in one of the most deprived areas of Rochdale. Its services continue to grow and develop to reflect what the local community needs and wants.

On accepting the award the Project Coordinator Hafiz Abdulmalik acknowledged the valuable contribution by the outgoing chair and founding director of Castlemere Ken Usman-Smith, who has been influential in guiding the centre to its present national prominence in a voluntary capacity for more than a decade.



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**Social Enterprise**  
**of the Year**

