

11th Nov 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Tuesdays 6:15 – 7:45pm Clubhouse, Boscombe

Finding a sense of belonging is important to us all

Participants: 5 Ex-offenders & 6 Others (B'mouth Council, BCHA, Agency, Family Member & PD)

LEARNINGS

"I've been struggling a lot in the last few months and I'm using again everyday. My confidence is really low so I've been talking about coming to meetings but haven't followed it through. Now I've come and it's been ok, I will come again."
(Ex-offender)

"I think it's really brave to come along and be so honest. I think years ago I would have blagged it and said I was clean."
(Ex-offender)

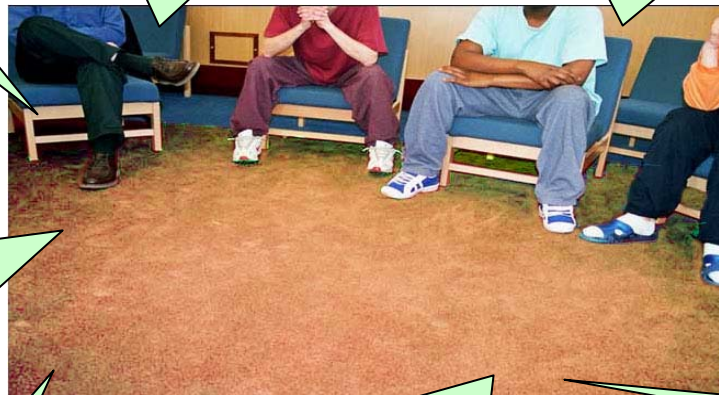
"In my new role I see lists of offenders who are seen as a problem, but I know them as real and decent people and know that many of them have just gone off the rails."
(Agency)

We can all impact on each other in a positive or negative way without even realising - this can affect our identity.

Sometimes it can seem that the community is split between offenders, addicts and 'normal people' but underneath we all have our insecurities.

We tend to focus on people who are just out of prison and the crisis they have to deal with, but this group can support those who have been out for a while eg with getting jobs, accessing university.

"When I first came out of prison it seemed like I was bouncing between different agencies, it didn't seem like they were talking to each other and it was frustrating because I didn't understand how the process worked."
(Ex-offender)



"Sometimes it feels that you've been punished once for your crime by being sent to prison, but even when you get out your punishment continues and you can struggle to get jobs or into college with CRB checks."
(Ex-offender)

"Even now at University, sometimes I feel like a fraud and I'm not supposed to be here."
(Ex-offender)
"You don't have to be an addict or offender to feel like that. I sometimes feel like that at work."
(Agency)

"Sometimes we put people into boxes like addict or offender and we struggle to see everyone as part of the community. We can also create our own boxes around ourselves - like the recovery community can sometimes create it's own barriers."
(Agency)

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue brings Bournemouth offenders together in open conversation with the agencies responsible for their supervision and support. Dialogues are themed on the issues affecting re-offending. The process starts in custody and continues post-release in the community, emphasising support, challenge, responsibility and early intervention. Threshold Dialogue is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.