

14 October 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

The value of positive thinking

Participants: 4 Ex-offenders & 11 Others (Police, BCHA, B'mouth Council, Family Member, Ex-offender volunteers & PD)

LEARNINGS

"I'm not used to asking for help. I always think there'll be payback when I ask for something. I'm so used to dealing with people who want something in return."

(Ex-offender)

"I was a first class liar by the age of 5. I was brought up not to bring trouble home, that's why it's hard to ask for help. It's not natural for me."

(Ex-offender volunteer)

"I helped to change a posh woman's tyre. She didn't see me as a drug addict that sleeps under the bridge. She didn't know me. It was a positive experience."

(Ex-offender)

You can ask for help and you may even get it!

"My key worker found a website for free bikes. I phoned to check if the tyres were flat and they were. My probation is helpful and offered to help with transport. She told me that prolifics are concerned about getting me a bike in case I do a burglary with it and the bad press that may follow."

(Ex-offender)



Not enough appropriate housing is available in Bournemouth for ex-offenders leaving prison or for the homeless.

Something positive can be found in all of our lives - you have to really look for it sometimes!

"People are frightened of homeless people, they think they will be the next victim, they don't want it on their doorstep. It's the same with groups of young people."

(B'mouth Council)

"I need to get back into residential drug treatment. I've been clean before for 19 months. I know what I have to do but it's not easy. I will talk to my DIP worker tomorrow."

(Ex-offender)

"There were 46 referrals to Dorset Lodge this month and 45 were accepted onto the waiting list. Only 6 places were available highlighting the gap in what is needed for people leaving prison and what is available."

(PD)

"It's strange that the council want to build an ice rink yet so many people are homeless."

(Family member)

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.