

15th July 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Tuesdays 6:15-7:45pm Boscombe

Crisis of release

Participants: 1 Offender, 4 Agency Staff and 2 from PD

LEARNINGS

Release from prison is a crisis. The crisis of release is far worse than many people realise.

Crossing the threshold from prison to community throws you into an emotional spin and without the right support, unless you are lucky, you nosedive.

Blowing prison out of your system and getting somewhat stable emotionally have to come before rational planning.

You could hear a story like this one from almost any ex-prisoner 48 hours after release.

This man was one of the more stable members of the Dialogue in prison.
(PD)



"I got out of prison yesterday morning and I'm finding it difficult to adjust. I've been on a pub crawl today. I know I'm not making much sense to me or anyone. I went to The Salvation Army to ask about volunteering and I'm living in a place in West Howe – but I don't like that area at all. I don't know what my plans are. I'm very confused about things in my life and there's pressures that are worrying me - people. I don't want to do what they want me to. I haven't had a chance to get used to being out – it's all a bit much at once, it's upsetting me and I feel alone. I'm sorry to say I'd like to go back to prison right now."

(Ex-Offender)

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.