

16th Sep 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Tuesdays 6:15-7:45pm Boscombe

Finding strength

Participants: 4 offenders, 1 Ex-offender volunteer, 2 Police, 1 Probation, 2 Agency, 2 PD

LEARNINGS

"The judge said I should see my daughter but it never happened. I've written letters and got nothing back. I talked to Social Services but it's like a brick wall. The judge said I should see them but I can't. It upsets me." (Offender)

"I got banned from the Night Shelter for using, then I got evicted from (supported housing) because I relapsed – does that mean I've made myself intentionally homeless?." (Offender)

"I believe knowledge is power. You guys need to understand why you have been banned from St Pauls. I'll give you any help I can to find out. I'm going to learn more about the rent deposit scheme." (Probation)

Home means different things to different people – privacy, sanctuary and independence were key themes for this group.

"My daughter's 3 ½. I want to see her first thing in the morning and last thing at night when we put her to bed... She's 4 in January. I want to get myself clean so I can be there." (Offender)

"That's your strength." (Ex-Offender)

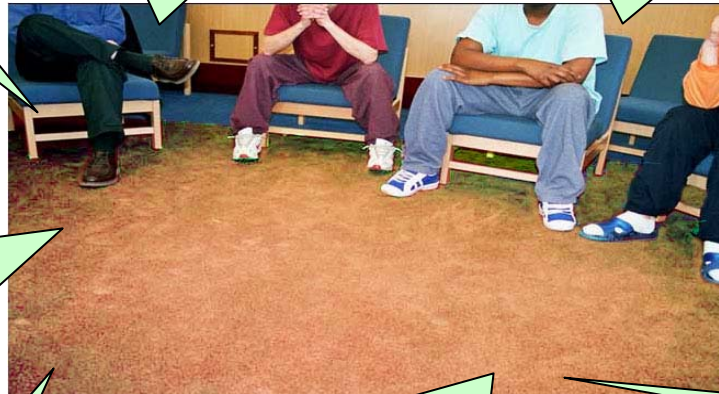
Thinking about family can be painful, but it's an important part of motivating recovery because it's difficult for them to stay in contact with you if you're using.

"My home is my sanctuary. I want to be able to close my door after a day's work and have my own space." (Agency)

"I'm always renting and I can't have pets. Home for me would be where I could keep animals." (PD)

"I work at the night shelter all the time and I meet with management every week. It's been helpful to hear what's going on from your point of view. It's easier to do it here in a more chilled out environment." (Police)

I work for BCHA. I run the rent deposit scheme for Bournemouth and can help with getting community care grants for rent in advance. You're assessed by the council and have to meet certain criteria... You don't qualify if you're intentionally homeless." (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.