

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

## Rebuilding after prison

Participants: 4 Ex-offenders & 7 Others (Drug Workers, Agency Ex-offenders, Police & PD)

### LEARNINGS

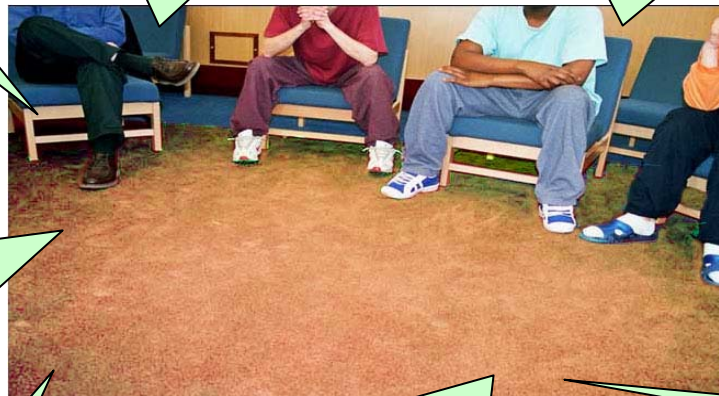
"I went on the 12 step programme. I stayed clean and got through my sentence. I hated it, the psychology - I hate talking to professionals about my feelings. Now I just want to be left alone to get on with my recovery work." (Offender)

"I'm going to start encouraging my clients to come along. They need to know it's a safe place for them, even though there are people in uniform here." (Agency Ex-offender)

"It's all about the little steps you take every day that get you where you want to go. What are your goals?." (Drug Worker)  
"I just need to keep going on like I am - one day at a time." "My goal is to be here next week." (Offenders)

Current housing provision doesn't support people with addictions who are in relapse.

"It's the link between housing and drug use. The reality is that many people are leaving prison with heroin habits which stops them from getting into supported housing so they go into the night shelter or onto the streets. I don't know what the answer is but we need to be open about the nature and scale of the problem." (PD)



Being in prison takes it's toll on your emotions and state of mind.

"Problem is that in supported housing, one relapse and you're out." (Ex-offender)  
"A house of recovery addicts is a very vulnerable group or people, they have to protect the collective interest." (Drug Worker)

"Initially I wanted to go and stay with my family but probation wanted me to go into a hostel. Now I've got myself on my feet. I've just completed my first stage aftercare and the best thing is that I'm getting to see my daughters each weekend." (Offender)

"Between 1995 and 2004 I spent 9 months out of prison. On my last sentence, I didn't want to come out. I had everything I needed. I was institutionalised." (Ex-offender)  
"We've got people coming out of prison with Post Incarceration syndrome and Post traumatic Stress Disorder." (Agency Ex-offender)  
"We call that crisis of release and crisis of detention." (PD)

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.