

20th May 2008

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 6.15-7.45pm Clubhouse, Bournemouth

Wherever I Lay My Hat

1 Agency representative, 1 Offender and 1 from PD took part.

Learnings

'7 months in prison I was keeping on at them, but they came to see me on the day of release and told me there was nowhere for me to go. That was it - from that moment on I just wanted to get out of prison and off my face. I was angry.'
(Offender)

'I've got my own opinion about the night shelter. One thing I will say - if we were running a release hostel there'd be no such thing as turning a blind eye - I guarantee it.'
(Police)

'I got searched by the police on the way down here - they were fine about it. I think you guys have to be nosey. If you weren't nosey you'd never catch anyone doing anything.'
(Offender)

Managing a supervision licence successfully is harder than it appears.

As well as housing and drug intervention, offenders need structured activity to fill their time. Voluntary and/or physical work is a popular request.

'My Footprints worker has been a real diamond - helped me when I got out and speaks with me everyday to see if there's anything practical she can help with. It's been a real boost to have that - I'm surprised Footprints doesn't get more of a big-up on the wings - everyone ought to know about it.'
(Offender)



Even a small group can be beneficial to those involved.

'Boredom is a big deal. I get some breakfast, I'm out of the night shelter by 9am, then I have to fill my time until 5pm. It would be helpful to have something proper to do during the day. If I feel like I've achieved anything, that's a start.'
(Offender)

'That's always puzzled me - how offenders are expected to get from one type of lifestyle to a 'normal' way of life almost overnight. It's a long way to go to get from a drug using life to a clean one.'
(Police)

'I wish someone had helped me with thinking about how to handle my licence when I got out. It sounds easy but there's a lot to it, even with just a few conditions. I sometimes have to ring them every day to tell them where I'm going to be staying because I'm moving around so much.'
(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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership