

26<sup>th</sup> August 2008

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

### Understanding how we all fit in

Participants: 3 Ex-offenders & 11 Others (Princes Trust, Drug Workers, Police, Service Users & PD)

#### LEARNINGS

"I've been clean and out of prison for 4½ months. I came down here 4 years ago. I'm sick of going back to prison. I'm sick of drugs, I'm sick of the whole lifestyle. I want to change - that's why I'm here."  
(Offender)

"I'm in supported housing but I don't want to be there forever. I don't know how to move on from that. That's the kind of thing I need help with."  
(Offender)

"I'm so pleased to see (X&Y) here. We're here to help but we need you if this thing is going to work. Go out, tell everyone, spread the word and most importantly - come back next week!"  
(Police)

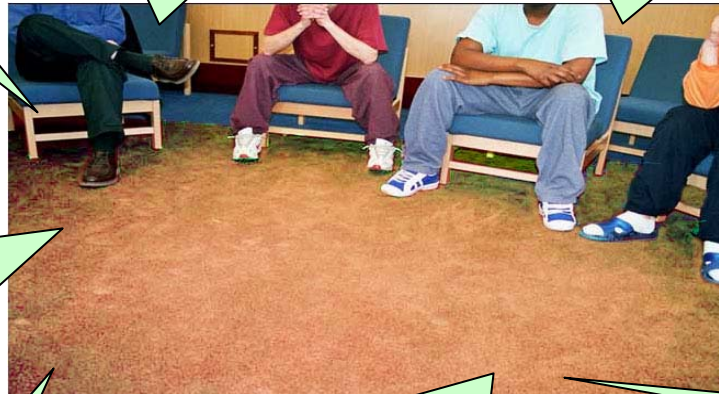
Everyone's needs are different, everyone's got something unique to offer.

Services with strict criteria leave gaps in provision - this group aims to be as open as possible.

We have to have offender voices here to make it work.

"It's all very well trying to help us but the place is awash with drugs - you have to stop the supply."  
(Offender)

"We know it's out there, we're committed to doing something about it. I used to be on a team and we kicked down 3 doors every day - we always got a result."  
(Police)



"I arrest people because that's my job. I volunteered to be here because what I do doesn't seem to make a difference - I'm seeing the same faces coming back time and time again. I'm here to try and break down the barriers."  
(Police)

"I left prison with a heroin habit - all they could offer me was the night shelter because of that. Nowhere else would take me even though I was a prolific offender."  
(Offender)

"These are the gaps in services that we can only learn about from you."  
(Agency)

"It's early days for us - everything's just being set up. We work with people on a one to one basis. We've decided against the term 'mentor', instead we have 'supporters'. All of them are ex-offenders, they receive a full training package - currently we've got 30 supporters on the books."  
(Princes Trust)

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.