

28<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

## Things that I dislike or scare me

Participants: 1 Ex-offender & 7 Others (BCHA, DIP, B'mouth Council, Clubhouse & PD)

LEARNINGS

"I hate the police, especially their pettiness."

(Ex-offender)

"Yes I struggle with traffic wardens, I mean what sort of people do that job!"

(B'mouth Council)

"They're probably just normal people who can't get any other job and probably react badly as a result of receiving constant abuse."

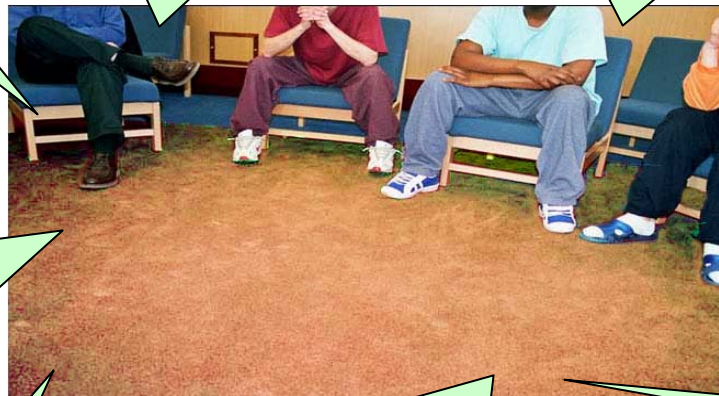
(Agency)

Dialogue between agencies and ex-offenders out of their usual environment breaks down barriers.

Everybody can have negative interactions with authority figures - not only ex-offenders. Everybody gets stopped by police!

"I think that it's really important how police/authority figures talk to the individual. If it is respectful they are less likely to receive abuse. However when they're disrespectful then people react badly."

(Agency)



Understanding other perspectives helps us to take responsibility and it decreases our frustration too.

"Actually, the police woman did speak to me nicely initially but I reacted badly to her. Then she reacted and I was given an on the spot fine for cycling on the pavement."

(Ex-offender)

"I will talk to anyone who talks to me with respect but I hate being spoken to in an authoritative manner."

(Ex-offender)

"It can be difficult to look at all perspectives, but very helpful. If you're cycling slowly on the pavement, there's no real problem. However, if suddenly a cyclist comes fast from behind you, it can be quite frightening and dangerous."

(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.