

3rd June 2008

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 6.15-7.45pm Clubhouse, Bournemouth

They might not say it, but it's what they're thinking

2 Agency representatives and 2 from PD took part.

Learnings

'I remember even as recently as four years ago – all the agencies held their own territory – keep off, this is my bit! It's changed so much now, all the emphasis is on partnership working. (Agency)

'I can think of a few people who are out of prison and stable who would welcome the opportunity to get involved in something like this.' (Agency)

'A card would work, maybe something to show that you're a part of the dialogue and that you're in regular contact with agencies.'

To get a new group going you need a small core group of ex-offenders to start

'The real opportunity is to have ex-offenders as facilitators, people that others can look up to. They just don't hear it in the same way from people who haven't been in prison, haven't been on drugs. They won't say anything but it's going on in their heads: 'You've never been where I am now.' (Agency)



Attendance can be encouraged with a mix of incentive and enforcement options – licence agreements, ABC's, policing

Real partnership work at grass roots level has lots of potential.

'There's people who drink alcohol and have some kind of habit, but they're going to work every day. We're not making a judgement over that, we're just here to reduce re-offending.' (Agency)

'We can organise things like gym passes for regular attendance. It seems small but it's those incentives that can make a big difference getting people through the door.' (Agency)

'Of the five released in the last 2 weeks, 3 have already been arrested for various offences but aren't back in custody yet, one is struggling but not offending as far as we know, one is stable and clean with good prospects. This is normal for the group.'

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