

30th September 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

Shame and disclosure

LEARNINGS

Participants: 3 Ex-offenders & 8 Others (Police, BCHA, B'mouth Council, Ex-offender volunteer & PD)

"It's my own perception of myself that holds me back."
(BCHA)
"I'm a thief and I'll always be a thief."
(Ex-offender)
"No, you're an ex-thief."
(Ex-offender)

"I know some of the people here from behind a piece of glass and it's been good to come here and meet and get to know people."
(Police)

"If somebody had told me a year ago I'd be sitting eating dinner with a police officer, I'd have told them to f**k off."
(Ex-offender)

We all have a past that we carry around with us.

"I try not to get involved in cliques. I like to try to get to know people - not on a superficial level. You never know when its going to come up. It came up in a lecture. They asked if anyone had been in court. What should I say?."
(Ex-offender)

How you hold your past can be an asset or a liability.

It's a dilemma about whether to disclose your past particularly when you're applying for work.

"I wouldn't disclose my offences on a job application cos I know I wouldn't get a job, even though I'd be lying about myself and I risk getting found out."
(Ex-offender)

"I felt at home in prison, I didn't want to come out. I had everything I needed, no pad mate to drive me nuts, no divs to knock on my door. I drew my curtain, turned my television on and felt comfortable."
(Ex-offender)

"I decided my love affair with drugs was over, it's only alcohol now and the thought of valium makes me go weak at the knees."
(Ex-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, challenge, responsibility and early intervention. Threshold Dialogue is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.