

4th Nov 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

Agencies help change - dialogue helps agencies change too

Participants: 2 Ex-offenders & 7 Others (Police, BCHA, B'mouth Council, Agency & PD)

LEARNINGS

"This time, when I wanted help it was available. I wouldn't have been able to do it without BCHA. In the past help hasn't been available at the right times. I've now been clean for 5 months and can plan for the future."
(Ex-offender)

"For drug treatment, the waiting times are much better than they used to be and better than other areas, but it's not instant. We have to do assessments and we don't always get it right."
(Agency)

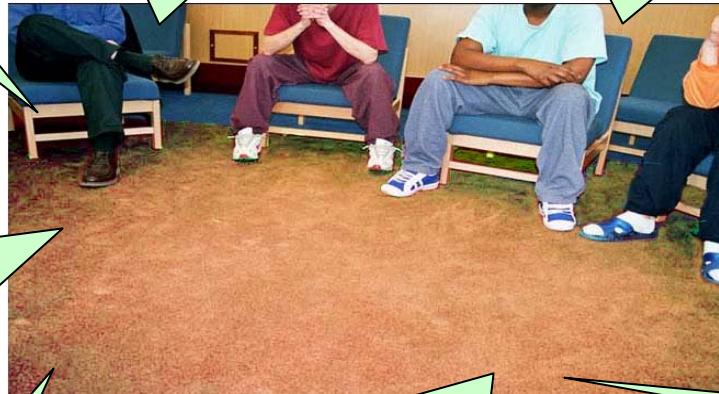
"A lot of this is driven by money and funding. With alcohol the services aren't so available, yet the problems it causes can be as bad as drugs."
(Agency)

Facilitators facilitate the whole group not just the conversation with ex-offenders.

Issues that are brought up in Dialogue sessions are being taken back to the people who make decisions about funding services.

Dialogue sessions should be a balance between agencies changing policy and practice and individuals changing their lives.

"Tonight it feels like the agencies have overtaken the session with discussion about policy. It was alright at the beginning when we were talking about our own stuff. There are people who are usually here who aren't here tonight and I can't stop thinking about them."
(Ex-offender)



"It's important to know what's going on at other levels in the agencies."
(Ex-offender)

"Other people highlighting your strengths gives you the confidence you need to move forward and change. Sometimes other people's feedback can be uncomfortable at first, but once you've processed it, it can help."
(Ex-offender)

"Housing is still a key issue and sometimes beds aren't available for people coming out of prison. But we have started to discuss how we provide more temporary accommodation to address this as a result of Threshold Dialogue."
(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.