

5th August 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Tuesdays 6.15 – 7.45pm Boscombe

People who want to make a difference

Participants: 2 Resettled Ex-offenders & 4 Others (Drug worker, Mentoring supervisor & PD)

LEARNINGS

"What's the Police agenda? What's in it for them? I don't get this idea of them going into Prison. When I was inside you'd never be seen talking to a cop. People would say you're a grass. I can't see it working."

(Resettled Ex-offender)

"The Police can answer that another day. Individually they say they're sick of arresting the same people time and time again, they want to get involved to make a difference."

(PD)

"If you ex-offenders were to go into Prison and meet some of the guys, they'd see you and know that you'd be here in the community when they get out. That would make a big difference to them."

(Agency)

Having a launch event will be effective in getting community sessions up and running.

The involvement of ex-offenders who are at different stages of their recovery journey could be a big encouragement to current offenders to come to the community sessions.

Hospitality makes a difference. Even Bishops like pizza!

"I don't want to bring clients down and find they're the only ones here with a bunch of agency people like us. They'd find that really intimidating and they wouldn't come back."

(Agency)

"Maybe we've all got one client we'd like to bring along but we all have the same fear. How do we get over that?"

(PD)

"Let's set a launch date for 26th August and everyone bring one client in - that's how to get this started. Never underestimate the power of decent hospitality. I know bishops and diocesan bigwigs - mention 'free food' and they always show up."

(Agency)

"Clients want real role models, want to see people like them at different stages of recovery, not just boring old (X) from (agency). We're getting the attendance in prison but not out here - what should we be doing? How do we give people a genuine incentive to come?"

(Agency)

"I want to get into the heart of prisoners to really help these guys."

(Resettled Ex-offender)

"I want opportunities to develop myself and my recovery. I've almost completed my mentor training and run a voluntary drama group. I'd like to do this."

(Resettled 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.