

7th October 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

The importance of honesty and being listened to

Participants: 4 Ex-offenders & 12 Others (Police, BCHA, B'mouth Council, CRI, Footprints, Family member, Ex-offender volunteers & PD)

LEARNINGS

"I've been where you are. You have to get honest with yourself and break the denial. You've got to stop blaming others and change your own behaviour."

(Ex-offender volunteer)

"At the end of the day we're all human and we all make mistakes. We've all got our issues. You don't know who the bloke to the left of you is and what he's got going on."

(Police)

"I've been on both sides of the fence. I've been a service user and am now a professional and on a personal level it's a conflict for me to know how to talk about these issues."

(Agency)

This group is not just about solutions, it's about listening and being listened to.

When you've got nothing it's hard to know how to get started on changing yourself.

If you get stuck in a situation you need to look at yourself honestly.

"I've got a bad reputation in Bournemouth - we get treated differently from other people and we can't access any of the services. Other people get banned from the Night Shelter for giving us a cup of tea."

(Ex-offender)

"Why are you stuck in it? You need to get out from all that. Forget about the Night Shelter, you don't want to go there. Get clean and use the experience of how crap this is to give you strength for your recovery."

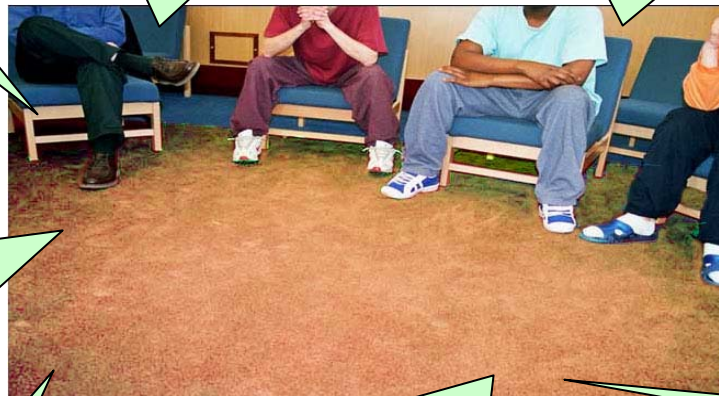
(Ex-offender volunteer)

"I had a meeting today and I know the woman really listened to me and that felt great.....I know people have been listened to today and that's what it's all about."

(Ex-offender volunteer)

"I found the conversation frustrating. I felt stuck in it and didn't know what to do to help. Still, there have been several positive outcomes. We've found out that needles can be accessed at the Police Station and there's an agency called Faith Works that helps mentor homeless people."

(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.