

10th Feb 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Tuesdays 6:15 – 7:45pm BCHA, St Swithuns House

Always different, always the same

Participants: 4 Ex-offenders, 1 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 BCHA & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I was moved from green to amber on the council bidding list as soon as I was accepted for the rent deposit scheme...I wasn't informed of this by the council, I found out when I went on the site to look for properties to bid on."

(Ex-offender)

"If you get accepted for the rent deposit scheme then you would be deemed as less of a priority for council housing as you then have the means to get privately rented accommodation."

(B'mouth Council)

"Where I come from in Liverpool there is no such thing as rent deposit schemes, here in Bournemouth the support around housing is much better. I'm grateful to be in supported accommodation, but that's me."

(Ex-offender)

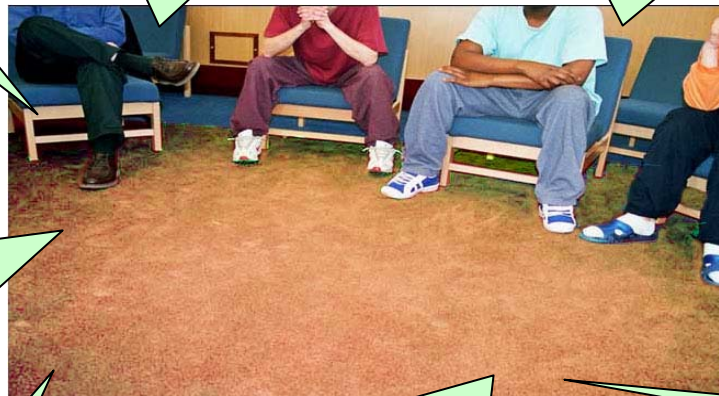
Sometimes the system can work against you.

It's best to have all the information to make an informed choice.

The problems we face as individuals can be different, however, the impact of the problem on the individual can be just as severe.

"I have an appointment with the council for the rent deposit scheme tomorrow. In all the time I've lived in Bournemouth I have never been offered a council property...I feel as though because I drink, I am put to the bottom of the list and other people get housed before me."

(Ex-offender)



"I'm trying to get into work from long term unemployment. Without affordable rent it will be hard to make ends meet. It can sometimes send my head back to old ways to get money, I don't want to do that...I have been doing voluntary work and now want to move on into paid employment."

(Ex-offender)

"There are benefits and grants that enable people to get back into work. I used them myself after a period of long term unemployment. I will give you a telephone number of someone in the job centre that may be able to help and see if we could possibly invite him to come along to one of the dialogue sessions."

(BCHA)

"Last time I went to go back into employment, I was told by a benefits officer that I would be better off not working and on benefits...so that's what I did. I really don't want to be in that trap of benefits anymore, I want to work but financially it's worrying."

(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.