

6th Jan 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Tuesdays 6:15 – 7:45pm 43 Oxford Road, B'mouth

New year, new starts

Participants: 3 Ex-offenders, 1 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 BCHA & 1 Agency

LEARNINGS

"I had a job I liked but f****d it up because I walked out to go to a weekend festival after my boss had said I couldn't have the time off. I wish I hadn't, cause I don't think he will give me another chance."
(Ex-offender)

"When I was working I felt like I deserved a reward at the weekend. There was a culture of going to the pub and using drugs."
(Ex-offender)

"I'm trying to create a job for myself, helping the community. I'm getting help from Bournemouth CVS at Boscombe Link with organising it."
(Ex-offender)

It's never too late to try to change direction and find a new job or new start.

"I wanted to do a counselling course, but at the interview I was told that I needed to be 2 years clean. Hopefully I can start the course in September. There is a College Outreach course which will help you with the basics, like computers, that you need to get back into another course."
(Ex-offender)

There is a lot of help into college or voluntary work, but it's not always easy knowing where to look.

If you want to change the outcome, you need to change your habits or behaviour.

"I don't speak to any of my old friends any more, they would want to meet at the pub and that would probably end in my using again. I have a few friends now, all in recovery."
(Ex-offender)

"I relapsed a lot, but have now been clean for some time. Every time I got clean, even if only for a short time, I learnt something about myself that has helped in my recovery."
(Ex-offender)

"When you're early in recovery it can seem really tough, with just meetings to fill your time. But as you go on it gets easier and you'll find more opportunities open to you, like volunteering and college. Sometimes you can try to get back into work too soon and drop back into past behaviour that lead you into problems in the first place."
(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.