

2nd June 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Authority in the community

Tuesdays 7pm – 8.30pm BCHA, Dorset Lodge

Resettlement Pathway: Drugs & Alcohol / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

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

LEARNINGS

"I think we should consider allowing drugs and in particular heroin to be prescribed legally. How else will you stop all the suffering and damage people cause from wanting their next fix. Nothing else is working."
(Ex-offender)

"If you legalise heroin, there's a moral issue to it and there is a risk that people who haven't used would try it."
(Ex-offender)

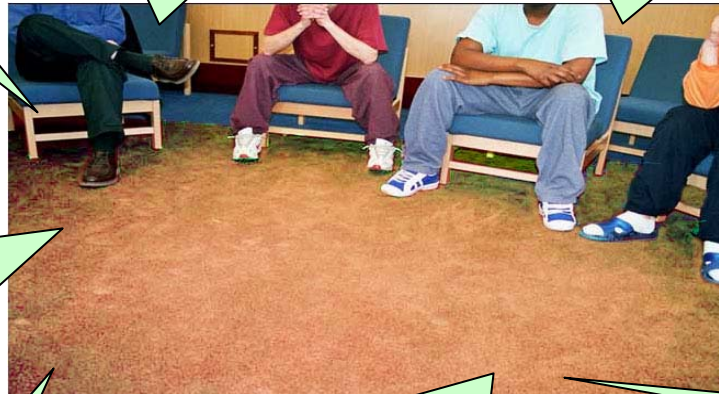
"I would never touch drugs again whether they were free or not."
(Ex-offender)

Treat people how you would want to be treated.

"I hate people like the police and social workers – anyone who is an authority figure. They just let the power go to their head sometimes. I've been beaten up by the police loads."
(Ex-offender)

People who abuse their position of authority have a massive impact on how an organisation is viewed.

The rehabilitation process is failing and needs to be addressed. The drugs issue needs to be reworked.



"I want to get out of the country just to get away from the police and all the authority. I wouldn't change the way I am though."
(Ex-offender)

"I got arrested and treated in the same way as what I've been arrested for – that's not right."
(Ex-offender)

"I was so paranoid then – taking weed and not thinking straight. I wouldn't act like that now."
(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.