

21st April 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Tuesdays 7pm – 8.30pm BCHA, Dorset Lodge

New Beginnings

Resettlement Pathway: Education, Training, Employment / Drugs & Alcohol

Participants: 5 Ex-offenders, 2 Police, 2 Council, 1 BCHA, 1 CRI & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I need to keep busy, when I'm bored I know I'm at risk of using again."
(Ex-offender)

"When I'm using I know what I'm going to be doing all day, who I'll speak to, what my day looks like."
(Ex-offender)

"I've been an offender for years, because of my drinking. Half of me wants to stop, but the other half likes the chaos of that lifestyle."
(Ex-offender)

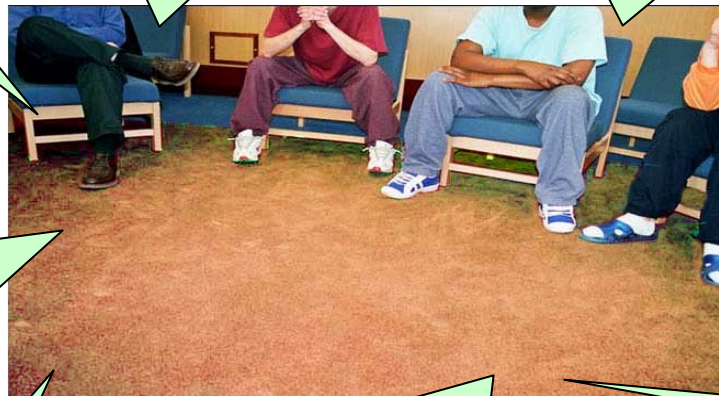
"I used to think the system was out to get me and things were put in place to trip me up and get me sent straight back to jail. Now I can see the support that is on offer."
(Ex-offender)

How you look at the system can determine whether you think it's there to help you or trip you up.

There is always an agency there to pick you up, but sometimes this can lead to dependency.

Dialogue sessions can help everyone speak equally.

"Years ago when you were on a DRR you'd be breached straight away if you relapsed. Now it seems that you can use and use and not be breached. I did think people were taking the p*ss, but I can see why now, I went out and used and got support from Probation and BCHA to try again. This is the longest I've been out on licence now without being breached."
(Ex-offender)



"I want to get back to work, but my old job in engineering was too stressful, I know I don't want to go back to that."
(Ex-offender)

"Sometimes it's good to recognise what you don't want to do, as the starting point in finding what you do want to do."
(Ex-offender)

"At the moment I've got a choice, do I do 2 months in prison and get it out of the way or do 18 months in the community with all the rules being imposed?"
(Ex-offender)

"I've got no picture in my mind of the future, I know what it's like to be a addict, an offender, and even a recovering addict, but have no picture of me past this."
(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.