

26th May 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Families – they can support you but can also be part of the problem

Tuesdays 7pm – 8.30pm BCHA, Dorset Lodge

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

Participants: 5 Ex-offenders, 1 Police, 1 B'mouth Council & 1 CRI

LEARNINGS

"I'm seeing my children on Saturday, for the first time in weeks. I know I have to stay clean and sober on Friday and Saturday. My ex won't let me see them if I'm using, but I can't blame her for that. I've saved up some money and have planned a good day out."

(Ex-offender)

"I'm going to Luton, into treatment tomorrow. I know I have to do it but I'm full of fear."

(Ex-offender)

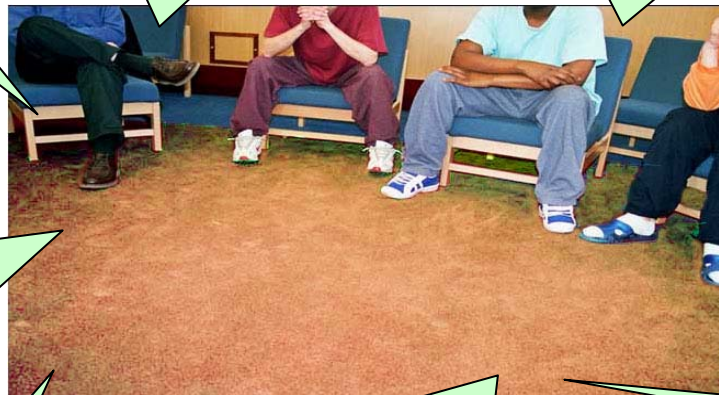
"I don't know how I'll get all my stuff to Luton. I've got a big TV and loads of clothes which I can't get on the train." (Ex-offender)

"You shouldn't worry about the TV and things, that's the least important bit. You need to get yourself there and concentrate on getting clean." (Agency)

You can't be a parent if you're using or drinking.

"It's really difficult to be a good parent when you're using because you only ever put your needs first rather than your kids. It's not surprising that your ex doesn't want you to see your son when you are at it. Your son is probably young enough that he won't miss you for a few months, whilst you're in treatment, but he probably will if you spend the next few years in prison."

Agency



"You don't want your kids to see you when you're using. I blame my dad for my situation, I grew up with him using heroin when I was a kid. Now both my brothers are in trouble and my mum drinks. It's only my sister and my step dad who are clean at the moment."

(Ex-offender)

"I lost everything through drinking, ended up sleeping rough or in the night shelter. I've been out of Flaghead for 5 days. I'm looking forward to speaking to my family again as I haven't been in touch with them for months. I'm too ashamed to get in contact with them when I am drinking."

(Ex-offender)

"You need to be careful when you are just out of treatment or detox. The first 90 days we recommend that you do a meeting a day, to get the support you need."

(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.