

23rd July 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

Thursdays 2pm – 3.30pm BCHA, St Paul's

Don't 'judge' a book by it's cover

Resettlement Pathway: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 4 Service Users, 2 Police, 1 BCHA & 2 Magistrates

LEARNINGS

"When you hear the saying 'It's the system that lets us down', how do you feel, as you play a major part in that system?"

(Police)

"I have spent time in and out of prison since I was 14 years old. I don't want any other youngster to go through what I have. I want to be in a position to help people away from the same path I took."

(Service User)

"There are always two sides to every story. I need to know the full story to make decisions. The same applies in all walks of life and it's a matter of how well you present your side of the story."

(Magistrate)

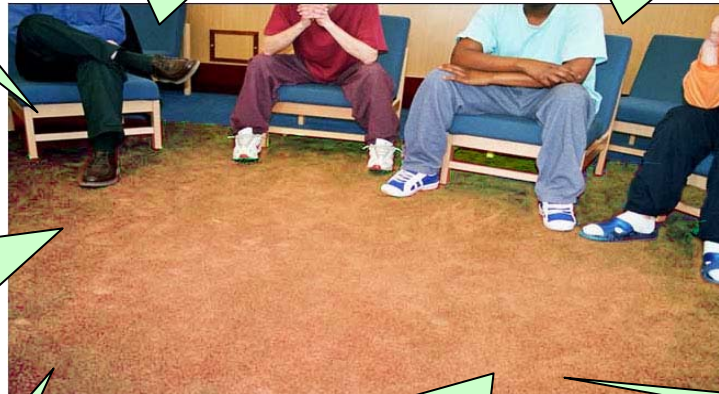
Police Officers, JP's, support workers, offenders – we're all human beings.

Stereotyping is in us all – learn to be open minded.

Take the opportunity of help from those who provide it – it will be of benefit to you.

"We do have a part to play in the system. In this room we have the offenders, the police who arrest them, the JP's that sentence them and the support workers who care for them once they are out of Prison. Who's missing from here? Probation."

(Magistrate)



"Probation are your friends and you must look at them as such. I get a report prior to sentencing and that piece of paper from your probation officer carries so much weight. Work with them, not against them. They are a service to you and I make my judgements on your life based on what I see before me."

(Magistrate)

"We have plenty of help in Dorset and we need to realise that we should take the opportunity to use it. I know a county twice the size of Dorset that has just one known treatment centre. I guess we do not realise how lucky we are..."

(Service User)

"When you turn up in Court, of course dressing up in a nice suit will show that you have respect. But we are not fools in that it hides the reason why you stand before us. However, impressions count and showing that you have made efforts will give you a tick in the right box."

(Magistrate)

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.