

3rd Sept 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

Don't bite the hand that feeds you

Resettlement Pathway: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 1 Service User, 2 Police, 1 BCHA & 1 Probation

LEARNINGS

"The services down here have done nothing for me. It has taken Street Services nine months to find me a local connection in that I used to live in Bournemouth. I have had to take responsibility myself and am close to getting a flat. I am in a tent at the moment as there is no chance I am willing to stay in St Paul's." (Service User)

"The only support I have had is from my partner. If it were not for her then I would be more than a hand full for the police. They sometimes send more than one police car to arrest me due to my behaviour. With her support I am seeking the right counselling and taking the right medication." (Service User)

"When the service users do eventually find themselves accommodation, they should also be looking to find their own doctor and dentist, like the rest of us. Why is it that they access the daycentre still to see the resident doctor and dentist?" (Police)

Depend entirely upon yourself; then your future lies in your own hands.

"Are you seen as being taken advantage of by some of the service users? Is it too soft a touch? It's known that you have little or no time to assist those residents who really need direct support from St Paul's, yet there are individuals who have refused support or moved on from St Paul's, who keep returning purely for the social scene. They use up your time and resources in managing a chaotic daycentre." (Police)

Stubbornness does have its helpful features. You always know what you're going to be thinking tomorrow!

"There is not enough information down in that day centre, giving details about counselling and access to services. You need to give clear and understandable advice that can help service users get on in life. I have had to seek this out myself with no help at all from any of the services. I've got my own thoughts about BCHA and it isn't nice." (Service User)

"The service users are getting on their feet and with the aide of floating support, they are helped in areas such as filling in forms and registering with doctors and dentists. I rather they came to the resident doctor and get medication, than not seek any doctor at all." (BCHA)

Life is under no obligation to give us what we expect.

"The police may do a good enough job but homeless people just do not report enough things or they are called a grass. If they have the confidence to go to the police station, they look over their shoulder to see who may have seen them walking in. That's another service that fails us." (Service User)



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.