

5th Nov 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

Change can be good – we are living with it now

Participants: 9 Service Users, 2 Police, 1 BCHA & 1 YMCA

LEARNINGS

"I spent 3 days at the Night shelter and just saw it at a place to eat and sleep. I never knew that I could sit and get advice; it was so hectic. I ended up at the Night Shelter as probation only looked at my placement on the last day of my sentence. I appreciate that they have red tape, but it was this place or the streets." (Service User)

"I was banned from the YMCA when I was 18 years old. I am now 26 and am ready to move on. I feel empowered at the moment and have been clean for three weeks. Is there any chance of me being welcomed back to the YMCA?" (Service User)

"YMCA will give you the chance to have an assessment and take into account the efforts you have made. For people to move on, you need to do a 'housing CV', and not just saying why you want it, but giving evidence how you have achieved this. Make your application stand out from the rest." (Agency)

Meet the help half way. Then you can achieve results.

Thanks. It's a small word with a big meaning.

It's not only police that use evidence – you can use it to get housing.

"You guys – the police, staff at St Paul's, YMCA – do a great job, to which we all should be thankful for. Over the last few weeks I have taken responsibility to meet the service half way. I now regularly attend EDAS on a Monday and sit in a session just like this. By doing this, I am moving forward." (Service User)



"I am not welcome in Bournemouth. Bournemouth seems to be the only place where you are not welcome unless you are from the town. I have been in Salisbury, in and out of hostels with no problem. I ended up in Southampton, with Street Services paying me to come to Bournemouth. Now Bournemouth do not even want me." (Service User)

"Local connection policy applies everywhere in the country, even in Southampton and Salisbury. Each Council has one pot of money to spend on local people, by providing police, fire and supported housing. Bournemouth is a lovely place and the Council have to cap spending, by looking after those who are in need that live here." (BCHA)

"Since the change of hours at St Paul's, things here are so much better. I can come to these meetings, get help from the support workers and get the chance to speak to the police without the hassle of chaotic service users. The question is, where have they all gone!" (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.