

6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2009

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: BOURNEMOUTH

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

### Don't shoot the messenger!

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

Participants: 14 Service Users, 3 Police, 1 BCHA & 1 Probation

LEARNINGS

"I got a Section 30 from two officers for just being the mother of two regular offenders. They said it was because my son p\*\*\*ed them off. Why do I get tarnished with the same brush as my sons? There were four people there and only I got a Section 30. I want those officers here to see what they have to say."  
(Service User)

"The Section 30 gives powers to Police and PCSO'S to disperse groups of two or more people away from an area, which Anti Social Behaviour is present. The officers must give good reasons and provide paperwork to this effect."  
(Police)

"It's about respect. You show us respect and we will show you respect. Don't talk to us like we are something you wiped off your shoe."  
(Service User)

It's time to know your Bye Laws – they will be enforced

Respect shown is respect gained.

"Why do you target us alcoholics? We need a drink first thing in the morning. It's not like taking a hit, which you can do in five seconds – we need time to pull a £1 together to buy a can and drink it as soon as we can!"  
(Service User)



Alcoholism is an illness – recognise it as such.

"By taking it off us you're effectively killing us! How do you sleep at night?! You're not an alcoholic, so you do not know what we have to go through. I've seen people fit through not having drink."  
(Service User)

"The Bye Law set up by the Council defines a no drinking area. It was not policed correctly before but now I am here, it will be enforced - a no drinking area means no drinking."  
(Police)

"I am a professional alcoholic. But the man just has a job to do – it's your own fault if you get caught."  
(Service User)

"It's a hard issue to solve. The Council have set up this Bye Law but working where I do, I can appreciate what you're saying about alcoholism, but can also see the need for it to be policed."  
(BCHA)

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.