

8th Feb 2011

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Wherever I lay my hat

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Participants: 27 Offenders, 1 Police, 1 Prison Staff, 1 CRI, 2 Magistrates & 1 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"I am currently on remand and don't know if I'm going to get further prison time or be given "time served" and released to N.F.A. I don't know what to do."

(Offender)

"I don't want to be sent to a hostel on my release. I want to be able to have a flat so I can have my kids round."

(Offender)

"All these points are extremely valid. Some are not a political problem but a governmental issue. You should write them down and sent them to your MP."

(Magistrate)

There are no easy answers.

There needs to be more communication.

You have to take responsibility for your own future as well.

"Some people can benefit with a hostel and the support they offer on release from custody, but its an individual need and not for everyone. Some contain sex offenders. They keep them separated from us in prison yet make us live with them in the hostels on release. I'm not comfortable with that."

(Offender)



"There doesn't seem to be any consistency/communication with probation between prison time and release. They don't seem aware that it's a huge difference in living. The connection needs to be made before release."

(Offender)

"Unfortunately until you're sentenced you don't get an offender supervisor and if its under 12 months you don't get a probation officer either."

(Prison Staff)

"I have never had a proper ID and don't technically exist in the real world. The prisons are supposed to provide us with sustainable identification on release. I obtained a Citizen card though a prison at a cost to myself only to find that not everywhere accepts it. Its hard to start a fresh with no ID and no means to open a bank account."

(Offender)

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.