

1<sup>st</sup> July 2008

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel

### Have-nots and must-haves

7 Offenders, 3 Others (Prison Staff and Prison Dialogue)

### LEARNINGS

"It's not just the drug itself, it's the whole lifestyle – the chase, the buzz, grafting, scoring, fixing. It's like watching a fox's tail going over a wall. Committing crime is an addiction all of it's own."  
(Offender)

"I should have come to the community dialogue at the clubhouse when I was last released. Maybe if I had I wouldn't be back in here. I knew the support was available but I didn't take it."  
(Offender)

"There was a change in the law last year. Now you can't get £750 for a crisis loan AND £750 for a budgeting loan. As it stands, £750 now covers both categories, you won't get any more now."  
(Offender)

The system has a big impact on you. Here you can learn about the rules and how they are changing.

"My advice to you is to sit down with your Offender Manager and be honest about your needs. Tell them what your plans are, give them something to work with and don't be afraid to say 'that's not going to work for me.' If you make an agreement with them, stick to it. If you need to change your direction or plan for any reason, tell them first, get their agreement and stay with what you agreed."  
(Staff)



Giving housing and prescribing drugs isn't enough for some people. It's a whole lifestyle that has a buzz to it.

Many offenders have problems with authority and barriers to overcome in dealing with the police.

"I can do all the SDP courses I like in a Cat B jail like this. I can clean up my act then I get transferred out to a Cat C and it's stuck right in my face again. Cat C and Cat D prisons are awash with drugs."  
(Offender)

"Why would we talk to the police? I come from estates where the families sort out problems – we don't get the police in for anything. It's how we were brought up. Yes, I've got issues with authority."  
(Offender)

"Why give an alcoholic money for a deposit? It doesn't make sense. He's only going to spend it on booze. Why can't they cut out the middle man and properly set him up with a flat and some furniture?"  
(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.