

10th Feb 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Barriers to successful resettlement

Participants: 10 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"When I was out the police seemed really interested in me. Kept talking to me in the street and asking me how I was doing. Is that because of this group?"

(Offender)

"I'm a known offender. I'd think it was more strange if the police weren't asking me what I was up to."

(Offender)

"I'm a drug addict. Even if I leave prison clean, if I don't get support I'll turn to drugs."

(Offender)

Many offenders who attend this group feel trapped on a merry-go-round in and out of prison.

When you try to use the system properly you can still feel you are knocked back.

"X (Police) used to target me. Last time I was out on bail he stopped me to ask how I was getting on. He's really changed since he's been coming here."

(Offender)



Attention from the police may be intended to help but it can feel very suspicious to offenders.

"The biggest barrier I face on release is myself."

(Offender)

"The barrier I've faced before is probation ... I just want to be left alone. I want out of this merry-go-round in and out of prison."

(Offender)

"I'm hearing from other prisoners details about my case that they say they've heard from police officers. That shouldn't be happening. I'll raise it next time when the police are here."

(Offender)

"I've got a letter here from a guy – he asked me to read it out 'cos he's in court today. It's about everything he did last time he was released, things he found out from this group. He was really positive when he left but everywhere he went he got a big knock back."

(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.