

10th June 2008

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester

These issues extend to thousands of people

5 offenders, 2 Staff members, 5 external agencies and 1 from PD took part

LEARNINGS

'I've been involved in this dialogue for the last two years. It might seem like there's a small number of people sat here, but believe me, the issues that are coming out extend to thousands of people nationwide.' (Offender)

'Hostels can be difficult to site in neighbourhoods – nobody wants them. This idea is different because of the police involvement. That alone would make it a more attractive prospect because it would reassure people.' (Agency)

'What I notice about all of you is that you're not part of your communities. You get packed off to prison out of sight and you don't have the benefit and support of contributing to your neighbourhoods on release. I'd like to see that change.' (Agency)

Offenders are excluded from their communities, both in prison and on release

Solutions are available to agencies working in partnership. Realising those solutions is a lot harder than coming up with the grand idea.

Some offenders choose prison recall as a form of self-determination, preferable to release on licence

'If you come with me I can walk you down the landing, look at all the cards on the doors - LR, LR, LR – it stands for Licence Recall and this place is full of them. I can't cope with being released under licence, part of me wants to do what my brother did, get recalled to prison so at my sentence expiry I'm released without any Probation looking over my shoulder.' (Offender)



'I've been running the Housing side for 4 years now and part of me thinks 'it can't be that simple', but it might be. One definite thing is that it would have to be a real joint partnership venture between a number of agencies – one organisation couldn't manage all this by themselves.' (Staff)

'I like the Police-led hostel idea in principle. However, the cynic in me says it's all very simple and easy at the talking stage, but it wouldn't take very long before it got completely bogged down in red tape.' (Agency)

'It's been useful today – I feel like we've moved somewhere. I'd like to especially thank all the professional people who've come in today to meet with us' (Offender)

'It's really got me thinking – quite a few things we can do at our end.' (Agency)

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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership