

**Session 7**  
**11<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

# Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

**Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester**

**Housing. How to survive when things around you are collapsing.**

**17 offenders, 3 Staff members, 2 external agencies and 3 from PD took part.**

**What we learned:**

'I always get bounced around between places. Being evicted because I was honest about being in recovery or feeling threatened in dry houses. I got my tent and camped in the woods for a week.'  
(Offender)

'I'm here to learn. I walked into the room today, saw the uniforms and was like 'fine'. If it was just us lot talking amongst ourselves I wouldn't see the point of it.'  
(Offender)

'I've had my own place ever since I started working. Listening to you today I realise that I couldn't bear to be beholden to someone else. Landlords mucking people around – I'm glad I'm not on the end of that.'  
(Staff)

**There are important trust issues that need to be discussed further and resolved if the group is to continue**

'I'm not satisfied that this group is 'off the record'. I've had a Mandatory Drug Test after being in this group and I know someone else who has had one recently too. I can't accept that it's a coincidence. If you want us to be honest and open then there needs to be a clear understanding about what does and doesn't leave the room.'  
(Offender)



**What it means to be a PPO**

**How to handle housing crisis**

'I can only speak for myself but, when I've been running P-ASRO, if it's suicide, escape attempts, someone in danger of real harm, then it will get reported. Anything else goes by the by. To be honest, if it was any other way we wouldn't have a group running inside 5 weeks.'  
(Staff)

'This was supposed to be about housing but it's gone a bit off track today. Groups have issues that need to be worked out. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our guests who have taken the time to come in today – it's noted and very much appreciated..  
(Offender)

'I'm sick of labels. I'm an 'offender', you're 'staff' – I don't buy it. Aren't we all just adults here in this room?'  
(Offender)

'I like hearing other people's opinions. I need to keep focused.'  
(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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership**