

11th Aug 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Rules are Rules

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 16 Offenders, 1 Police, 2 Prison Staff

LEARNINGS

"I've been told I will have to go into a certain hostel on my release as part of my licence conditions. I have refused to go there as I don't want to live with sex offenders or similar yet they still insist on sending me there. I may as well stay in prison."
(Offender)

"One thing to point out is that conditions are there to keep you outside as an alternative to prison as it's part of your sentence so that's why they may appear strict."
(Prison Staff)

"It's a shame probation aren't here to answer questions. I would be interested to know if offenders are allowed any input into their licensing conditions."
(Police)

Learning to comply with conditions may make things easier.

Ours is not to reason why.

"At the end of the day if you do as you are told and comply with your licence conditions then you will be okay but if you start to disobey probation then you will end up being recalled to prison. I didn't do as I was told which is why I'm back here."
(Offender)



Change is sometimes slow but can happen.

"I found that as soon as I stopped trying to fight probation and went along with what I was told then they left me alone."
(Offender)

"I've been doing this job for years and in my experience change happens more in sessions or groups like these where ideas work from the bottom up. It may take time but we are making progress."
(Prison Staff)

"I've been here a while now. One thing I've noticed in the prison is six months ago the inmates would all talk about how they would all be going back to committing crime when they left. Now the attitude is 'Yes I can do it. I can sort myself out' "
(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.