

12th May 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

The only way is up

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Accommodation / Property

Participants: 11 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 BCHA, 1 B'mouth Council & 1 CRI

LEARNINGS

"It's my fault I'm in here and take full responsibility. However I had problems outside with property and now have no clothes to wear. I had to use prison clothes to go to court in."

(Offender)

"I can't believe I'm back in here. I've been a recluse since I've been back and have only just accepted the situation I have put myself back in. You can make decisions to stop the drug use etc but changing your behaviour doesn't happen overnight."

(Offender)

"I know I'm not stupid. When I'm committing crime I can adapt and think on my feet. If only I can put that energy into leading a straight life."

(Offender)

The consequences of incarceration can deprive you of more than just your liberty

Changing habits is not an overnight process

There is only so much help available. You have to want to change.

"I thought I had enough to worry about but you bringing that up has made me think. I have loads of sentimental stuff like photos and coursework that I could do without losing that is currently stored in a hostel. It's hard enough to adjust to the outside from prison without having to start with nothing."

(Offender)



"I went to the council for housing but was told I'd have to wait on the housing list."

(Offender)

"There is a housing shortage everywhere. It's just a fact. You have to put your name down and keep updating regularly."

(B'mouth Council)

"I am eligible for HDC soon and am told by probation that I cannot use my parents' address. I would like to get my own place but obtain housing benefits until I leave prison yet I first have to produce an address in order to apply for the HDC."

(Offender)

"I went to CRI because I believe I need residential rehab but was told they couldn't or wouldn't do it."

(Offender)

"Unfortunately due to finance and limited places etc these can only first be offered to people with serious issues like suicidal illness etc."

(CRI)

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.