

14 April 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

You can't beat the system (but you can help to change it)

Participants: 10 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police & 1 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"I've got an ASBO with stupid conditions; I'm banned from places where I've never committed crimes." (Offender)

"My ASBO means I can't go shopping anywhere for clothes in Bournemouth, it's a breach of my human rights." (Offender)

"If you've been through the system, youth courts and everything, and you've breached suspended sentences and things, you don't get any second chances as an adult."

(Offender)

"I've been stitched up by the Police. I had a job and was trying to get things together. Now I'm facing a long sentence. Being a PPO feels like you're being hunted, with Police visiting you all the time."

(Offender)

If you're one person against the Police, Courts and CPS it can feel like they're out to get you sometimes.

You'll only get the support you need to change once you have decided to stop committing crimes.

The system might not seem fair to offenders, but it has a role in protecting the public.

"What about the rights of the people you've harmed. ASBO's aren't supposed to be a punishment, they are supposed to help you change your behaviour. You should only be punished if you breach it. The conditions can be changed if they are no longer relevant or appropriate."

(Agency)

"It sounds like everyone is in here because of the Police, Courts and Probation. Don't your own actions have anything to do with it? If you're pleased you haven't been caught for some offences, can you complain if the police arrest you for things you haven't done?"

(Agency)

"I do think about the people I've hurt by committing crime. Not just the victims, but also my family. My picture's been all over the papers, how do you think my family feel about that?"

(Offender)

"The Police and Probation are working together to try to improve the system. There is a new proposal called 'integrated offender management' where they would be based together to offer better support to offenders, not just PPO's but those who are in and out of prison on short sentences."

(Police)



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.