

14th July 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Keep the faith

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 16 Offenders, 1 Police, 1 Prison Staff, 1 CRI, 1 Poole Council & 2 PD

LEARNINGS

"I'm here because I'm fed up of waking up after drinking too much only to be told I've done something wrong and not remembering what it was."

(Offender)

"I feel like I'm not being listened to by people in authority as I'm just a convicted criminal. Things have happened but I don't feel I'm being taken seriously."

(Offender)

"You shouldn't give up. It's like the broken record scenario. You have to keep on and on – keep repeating it until you're heard."

(Agency)

You need to keep trying no matter how difficult it seems.

"My problem is when I leave prison I won't have anywhere to stay. I have to wait several weeks to be able to get any benefits. What am I supposed to do until then?"

(Offender)

"I know how the housing system works but I don't know how you make it work for you from inside prison."

(Agency)

Services that are available in the community are more difficult to access from inside prison.

"I've found out recently that when people leave here with accommodation they can soon find they are in debt to housing providers because their benefits have taken so long to be paid. How is that supposed to help?"

(Prison Staff)

"I'm here on remand and have no connections anywhere, nowhere to stay and no job. As I am still into drug using at the moment, if I was given the opportunity for bail I would turn it down as I am better off here."

(Offender)

"I lost my job because of my offence, because I brought the company into disrepute. So now I've lost my housing too. I need to find out about accommodation and benefits."

(Offender)

"Don't give up – try and get yourself back into work first."

(Prison Staff)

Find your own way through the system - you have to help yourself but also don't be afraid to ask for help.



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.