

15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

## Home sweet home

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Accommodation

Participants: 12 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 CRI & 1 B'mouth Council

### LEARNINGS

"I've had positive rewards from the likes of BCHA, where they have helped me with accommodation, but it costs over two hundred pounds a week and when you start working and earning money which then affects your benefit, you then end up with extra pressure trying to juggle the finances."  
(Offender)

"Like most people you have to start somewhere like the night shelter and work your way up to a flat etc. Most other people start that way and have to work their way up."  
(B'mouth Council)

"I've learn't that you have to take things one step at a time and not try to do too much too soon."  
(Offender)

Accommodation is a problem for everyone not just offenders.

"I would like a flat not a bedsit when I leave prison but would not be eligible for enough benefits. Is there anything I can do?"  
(Offender)

"It's unfortunate but you're not old enough to claim any more than a room allowance."  
(B'mouth Council)

A stable place to live is so important.

"We could do with a night shelter that has police presence and people can be supported while they are there without fear of drugs being pushed under their noses."  
(Prison Staff)

"In an ideal world everyone would like their own place but it doesn't work like that. I know several police officers and others in the nursing profession who have their own places and have to rent out rooms to pay bills or even houseshare with others because they can't afford their own places."  
(Police)

"I've been told I can't come back to Bournemouth but all of my work is in Bournemouth. How do I get around that?"  
(Offender)

Start small and build up.



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.