

**Session 12**  
**15th April 2008**

# Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

**Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester**

## Drug Intervention

**7 offenders, 3 Staff members and 2 from PD took part.**

### Learnings

'I'd like to take this opportunity to ask everyone about their experiences with Drug Strategy services in Dorchester for our records. Do people feel that they've been afforded fair and equal access to all our support and interventions?' (Staff)

'The drug services here are more concentrated than they are out in the community. It's easier to get help in this prison – I felt ignored when I arrived but that's my addict head thinking everything revolves around me.' (Offender)

'There are different pots of money being held by different parts of the system in the community. We're never quite sure what the answer will be when we refer out. Sometimes it's living in the wrong postcode.' (Staff)

**In Dorchester Prison, Drug Intervention support is accessible to everyone, regardless of race, creed or sexual preference.**

'None of those things work. I've tried it before – get a nice flat, not enough, decent income, a good relationship and kids, not enough. You think those are going to be what keeps you clean, but it's still not enough. I'm hearing you talk about demons and I'm the same as you. Maybe it's time to realise that the real issues lie with me, not with all the other things.' (Offender)



**Many people find better access to Drug Services in prison than in the community.**

'When I originally got here I wasn't happy with Carats. I felt like I was being ignored for the first few weeks before they got around to me. Is that because I'm white, that I'm at a disadvantage? I don't know but it definitely crossed my mind a few times that it might be racial.' (Offender)

'I've got to face up to my demons and be honest about them. I never had alcohol testing written into my DRR but it's definitely a trigger for me. I'm ok on beer, but when I drink vodka I turn into a dangerous person. That's what got me back in here.' (Offender)

'Stop being modest, you've grafted your fingers off to get ready for release. Well done – if everyone was like you it'd be a different story' (Offender)

**When people don't listen to each other the conversation gets scattered.**

'Change is possible. It's down to each individual and their own determination.' (Staff)

**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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership**