

15 June 2010

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

New scheme to accommodate people leaving prison

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Housing

Participants: 9 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 1 BCHA, 1 CRI & 1 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"The scheme involves people leaving prison who would otherwise be homeless. Private landlords will allow people to move into accommodation where no deposit or rent in advance is required providing real measurable engagement is taking place with employment, dialogue etc and floating support is in place." (Agency)

"The Scheme sounds right up my street. What will the accommodation be? Can I get a flat/bed-sit/studio? It would be nice not to have to go into a hostel." (Offender)

"The Scheme's inception is directly from this dialogue group." (Prison Staff)

"Who will get on to this scheme? What is the criteria? Will it be open to people on licence, on tag? Who will make the decisions on who is eligible? How many people will be catered for?" (Offender)

Attending dialogue groups can help make changes for you and others who follow.

The agencies and prison staff are trying hard as they can to make a difference.

Supported accommodation can help you to independent living if you get your head down and want help and support.

"Your offender supervisors will be working closely with the Dorset Gateway to put people forward. We want to keep everything as simple as possible. Not everyone will be happy. The criteria needs fine tuning and we are having a meeting next week to cross the i's and dot the t's." (Prison Staff)



"We need to be realistic here. Initially it will probably be basic but lettable standard. If all goes well and the landlord can see you're a good tenant then it is likely you can go up the ladder." (Prison Staff)

"I can verify that a certain landlord who takes a robust approach to managing his lettings has moved a friend of mine from a poor type of bed-sit to a nice flat when he proved a good tenant." (Offender)

"That's all anyone can ask, is the chance to prove themselves. Don't forget if you don't qualify for these schemes, you can still achieve your own place and the skills to maintain that accommodation through supported accommodation. It may take a bit longer but you will have the support and expertise to help you." (BCHA)

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.