

15th July 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:30pm Chapel

## We all get these knocks

Participants: 4 Offenders, 4 others (Prison, Police, PD)

### LEARNINGS

"They want to get you on methadone, but I said to the judge 'please send me to prison, I want to clean up my act but there's no way I can do it in the community.' He sentenced me to four months – I thought that was a touch, I came in here to get a detox." (Offender)

"It's not a trigger, it's an excuse. After 2 ½ years clean I went to the red light district to find someone to score off. I walked down the street once – then I said 'just one more time' – then I kept going up and down that street until I found someone." (Offender)

"Was there something in your subconscious that made you want to use again? Some pressure in your life perhaps? I ask because in some ways we all get those knocks, but we deal with it in different ways." (Police)

Prison is easy. No one's being challenged, every need is catered for.

"Prison's easy now. Everyone comes in for their three square meals and a nice methadone script. I talked to this kiddie on my landing and he reckons the last month was the best of his life – 60mg valium and 50ml methadone. He came here because Exeter was locked out and he thinks it's great. Now he wants to move to Bournemouth so he can come back here. He said: 'I'll see you Friday!'" (Offender)



Now it's not just 3 square meals and a roof over your head, it's a methadone script too.

It's down to you what you want to get out of prison. Some people use it to get themselves clean.

"The most exciting thing I've ever done was being flown into Beirut at the height of the troubles in the '80's. I got strapped in the back of a US Chinook with the door open and it was a hell of a ride. We were thrown all over the place – got shot at by an RPG. The rush when we landed was incredible – I wanted to go back up and get shot at again!" (Prison Staff)

"I need to get myself a sponsor, get back to 12 Step. It takes a while – you need to have someone you can look up to. It's no good if you're thinking: 'Look at you, you mug.' We haven't seen a lot of NA here. I like NA and AA – they're that bit older." (Offender)

"They want to keep you on methadone. I want to get off it – I don't want maintenance. It's a horrible drug. I was on it for years before and when I came off it I didn't sleep properly for six months. An hour here and there, but not a full night's sleep." (Offender)

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.