

16th Dec 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

When you're ready to engage, there are services to help you

Participants: 16 Offenders, 4 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 Probation, 1 BCHA, 1 B'mouth Council & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I don't understand why I was put up for early release and once I'd done the forms I was told I wasn't eligible because I had breached my licence conditions previously."

(Offender)

"Some of the hostel rules are worse than being in prison. You can't have visits or stay away visiting family and friends."

(Offender)

"You have to remember that if you are still on licence you have to follow the rules that are set down."

(Agency)

Services are there to support people, but you have to want to engage with them.

"When I was in before, I broke all the rules but was given early release."

(Offender)

"It is up to the Governor's discretion at the end of the day."

(Prison Staff)

Probation's role has changed in the last few years. It's as much about public protection as supporting offenders.

"Sometimes it seems you can be breached and recalled for tiny things. I was late to a meeting with Probation and even though I had let them know I was still breached."

(Offender)

"That might have been the case in the past but now Probation have more flexibility and are encouraged to use their discretion not to recall people."

(Agency)

"I'm getting out in a week, but will only get my £46 grant and will have to wait a couple of weeks for my benefits to get sorted. It's not enough to live on, especially over Christmas."

(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.