

16th June 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Why should I work for nothing

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Voluntary Work

Participants: 14 Offenders, 2 Police, 1 BCHA, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 Probation, 1 Volunteer Service & 2 Prison Staff

LEARNINGS

"If you want to have things in place before your release you need to do your own leg work. Don't rely on others. Take the initiative. It's the only way."

(Offender)

"I started off doing voluntary work for a local charity. I worked hard, turned up on time, showed some loyalty. I ended up with a full time job – you get out what you put in. Mind you I'm back in here now."

(Offender)

"A few years ago my self esteem was low. Doing voluntary work played a crucial part in bringing my confidence back. By doing something for others you are doing a lot for yourself."

(Probation)

Voluntary work covers a wide range of jobs, not just soup kitchens and charity shops.

Giving something to others does a lot for your self esteem.

People who were in your shoes just a few years ago now have full time jobs which started by volunteering.

"There is a perception that all voluntary work is in a charity shop or dishing up in a soup kitchen. There is so much out there from admin to a DJ, driving a van or sports coaching – it's like a box of chocolates."

(Agency)



"Don't get disheartened if the job you want is not available to you because of your offending history. Look again and see what jobs you can do. Certain jobs require CRB checks depending on the vulnerability of the people worked with. But many of the jobs don't need CTB checks."

(Agency)

"It's a real shame that the process for volunteering cannot be started in the prison. It seems to me that when someone is being released, that is where the window of opportunity lies – hit the ground running so to speak. We're missing an opportunity here."

(Prison Staff)

"At my company I know of at least 2 people who have had a big offending history, yet are now working full time. Volunteering was a huge part of the process, having the chance to prove themselves. The skills and knowledge they have are invaluable to our clients. The evidence is there for all to see."

(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.