

16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

### The good things that people do

Participants: 6 offenders, 1 Offender Supervisor, 2 Police and 1 from PD

#### LEARNINGS

"We were in here together 24 years ago when it was 3 or 4 in a cell, a piss pot in the corner, no TV or radio... that was before I started using drugs." (Offender)  
"I've not been back since until 3 weeks ago." (Offender)

"I'm an insider. I help guys with things like filling in forms, for benefits and community care grants and I give them information when they first come into prison, like how the phone system works." (Offender)

"It helps prisoners & it helps staff because it's the sort of thing that we would have to help with otherwise. We can get on with other things" (Officer)

People are worried about their relationships with their families and talking about it is very sensitive.

"I've got 5 children – the youngest are 2 and 4. I want to think about how I can keep in touch with them. I don't want them to forget me. I have visits 4 times a week – but I can see my daughter already backing off a bit." (Offender)



Lots of prisoners do positive things all the time, like on the Insiders scheme, trying to maintain family links, giving each other support etc.

Offenders don't always understand the full impact of their crimes

"Have you done Storybook Dads? You read a story and they record it. I'm doing it on Thursday. My son's 18 months and my baby mother's other child is 3. He calls me Dad too." "Write a letter to them." (Offenders)

"I know shop managers in Bournemouth who have a target set – and if too much stuff is nicked they get the sack." (Police)

"My crimes – it's how I make my living. I don't think about the victims or the impact. I just think about me. I read their words on statements but it just goes over my head. I want to hear about the impact I'm having from victims and members of the community – from someone who's a bit feisty and will tell us how it really is." (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.