

17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

### What about what we want?

Participants: 13 Offenders, 1 Police & 1 Prison Staff

### LEARNINGS

"I'm a PPO from up north. When I was up north on licence I failed several drug tests but they didn't recall me as they knew I was moving to Bournemouth. They just wanted shot of me."

(Offender)

"PIER project and probation don't seem to want to treat us like individuals. Their attitude is 'DO WHAT WE TELL YOU AND LIVE WHERE WE TELL YOU OR ELSE.....!'"

(Offender)

"When I was sent to prison this time, the judge stated that due to my past I was not to be sent to certain probation hostels yet PIER are telling me that's where I may end up. Does no-one talk to each other?"

(Offender)

Patience is the only way to survive the frustrations of change.

Certain agencies need to be made aware that the system isn't working.

Don't lose faith in yourselves.

"I was assured that when my HDC had run its course and I had to leave Clearsprings that there would be accommodation sorted out for me. This wasn't the case. I ended up running around trying to find a place. One agency told me to live in my car until I found somewhere. I ended up grafting to pay for hotels and now I'm back in prison as a result."

(Offender)



"I went from pillar to post – namely council offices to street services etc trying to get somewhere to live and didn't get nowhere. The help they say is out there just isn't."

(Offender)

"I have witnessed the result of the frustration as a result of this. People get so wound up that they end up taking their frustrations out on staff behind the counter at the night shelter and the police are called. I have turned up and ended up on the receiving end of the abuse."

(Police)

"If you all write a letter detailing why you think you have failed on leaving prison then maybe we could send them to the local press. It may highlight the problems to the public."

(Prison Staff)

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.