

17th Mar 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Treat us as individuals

Participants: 11 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 4 Police, 2 B'mouth Council & 2 Agency

LEARNINGS

"I felt backed into a corner to engage with Pier. Three police officers visited me in a cell and wanted me to admit to other crimes to become a PPO. It's something I'll never forget."

(Offender)

"Pier does try to work on an individual care plan for each client. We have a multi-agency meeting weekly to look at each client's progress and what we all need to do."

(Agency)

"As a service Pier tries not to dis-engage with anyone, but there are times when people don't seem to want to accept the help that's on offer and they dis-engage with us."

(Agency)

Everyone is different and we all need different services at different times.

But tailoring services to individuals is expensive and can't always be done

Going to prison shouldn't mean you lose everything.

"The YMCA has a hostel and a number of flats around Bournemouth, which provide housing to a wide range of clients, although we don't house people on methadone scripts. In general we try not to judge people on their past, but just how they present to us; people go through the hostel and then can be moved into a flat, or helped into private accommodation if more appropriate."

(Agency)



"Agencies don't always work on an individual's needs, a one size fits all approach doesn't work, you need to make sure services are appropriate. It's no good housing someone who's been abused as a child in a hostel with sex offenders. How do you think that person will react?"

(Offender)

"Perhaps it would be better if clients were involved in these meetings with all the agencies."

(Offender)

"Yes that would be ideal and happens sometimes, but it is an issue of resources; we couldn't do this every week."

(Agency)

"I've been told that all my stuff will be dumped if no-one picks it up by tomorrow, I've got boxes of stuff but no-one from the outside to pick it up and store it for me."

(Offender)

"At the YMCA we store people's gear for a time. If it's not picked up we give it away to others, but will keep hold of personal possessions, photo's, passports etc, in case people come back to pick them up."

(Agency)

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.