

18th Nov 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Police Offender Relations

Participants: 9 Offenders & 4 Others (Prison Staff, Police & PD)

LEARNINGS

"The police have got to change but so have we."

(Offender)

"On my estate we've always hated the police. The kids will be undoing the wheel nuts in your car as soon as you drive in."
(Offender)

"But it has changed in the last 10 yrs. I'm the CBO there now. If I walk down the road people speak to me."
(Police)

"You can have a warning sign on your record as a juvenile and it'll still be there 20 years later."
(Police)

"I have a fail to appear on my record from 1986. I was in prison anyway. It still affects me getting bail 22yrs later."
(Offender)

Police are only human beings – they react and can have faults like everyone.

There can be a very different relationship between police and offenders when they get to know each other.

Your actions create a reaction – you're moving away you'll get chased – you chase they'll keep running away.

"The police cause harm as well... When I was 14, I was driving the wrong way down the Wessex Way in a stolen car and the police were chasing me. It was dark and I had no lights 'cos I'd hot wired it. I was blind drunk and my young cousin was with me. We ended up doing over 100 'cos they were chasing me. They should have given up – I wasn't going to stop and it was going to cause an accident."
(Offender)



"Come to think of it, it was the most stupid thing I've ever done. I'd never do it again."

(Offender)

"The police are human too. If you've got a buzz from the chase so do we. By the time you catch someone you've got adrenalin rushing through you. That's the point at which the professionalism has to kick in and you have to stop and step back."

(Police)

"My partner and I were stopped by the police recently. We weren't really doing anything major. The way they spoke to me – if I spoke to a prisoner like that I'd be disciplined, so it doesn't just happen to you guys. There are good and bad in every job."

(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.