

Session 8
18th March 2008

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester

Talking together: Everyone's included

6 offenders, 2 Staff members, and 1 from PD took part.

Learnings:

**Prison Managers are
necessary to the group**

**Prison Managers need to be in
the room to help think through
confidentiality expectations.**

**Strong groups with good
relationships can handle
heated discussion and
disagreement.**

**Helping people who are
difficult to help is difficult.**

'I'm listening to you speak
and I'm going to disagree.
I've lived in loads of places
in my life and Bournemouth
is one of the **EASIEST**
places to get housing. The
support is there – if you're
not getting it you're doing
something wrong.'
(Offender)

'You shouldn't be saying stuff in
here that's gonna get you in
trouble. That's why it's no names
and stuff. If I hear someone
about to drop themselves in it I'll
pull them up – I think we all
should.'
(Offender)

'You've got to start getting your head
in the right direction – from what
you're saying now you're deep in
denial – I can tell because I'm an
expert at it and look where it's landed
me. You can't blag a blagger.'
(Offender)



'I hear it from you every week and it
seems like paranoia to me. You think
it's the world against you – it's not.
The only way you get yourself housed
is by putting the legwork in, knocking
on doors and grafting your nuts off. If
you decide to spend your deposit on
drink and drugs you'll end up on the
street and back in here every time –
simple as.'
(Offender)

'Everybody's got to stop talking over
each other. He's just said something
really important and it's getting
drowned out. I want us all to shut up
and listen to what he has to say – me
included.'
(Staff)

'I got put in supported housing that was
supposed to be dry but everyone was
using. I thought 'no way', so I got myself
out of there and found a place to live
where I could be safe. You can make
excuses for relapsing or you can never
give up until you get what you need.'
(Offender)

'X has bent my ear off again, bless him. We've got to
include everyone here. Great to come in and be real
with people. It's a good group.'
(Offender)

'I've got to get it into my head to try harder.'
(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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership