

18<sup>th</sup> May 2010

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

## Drugs, decriminalisation and us

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Education, Training, Employment

Participants: 17 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police & 1 CRI

### LEARNINGS

"If drugs were decriminalised then it would cut out all the crime and offending to pay for them. Most of the people in this group here are in here because of drug use one way or another."

(Offender)

"There are some places that have controlled using rooms and prescribe heroin to addicts to keep them clean and infection free. Methadone does not work for everyone."

(Offender)

"I can see a lot of different sides to this question and working in this field there are many different things to consider."

(Agency)

"I am fed up with no one answering questions and being politicians. Why don't you just answer the question?"

(Offender)

A lot of our offending is through addiction and alcoholism.

Prohibition does not work.

All of society is affected by the consequences of drugs and alcohol.

"All of my violent crimes have been through drinking alcohol, it is a lot worse than any drugs and it is legal."

(Offender)



"I suffer from the disease of addiction. If my girlfriend and little baby were in front of me I would step over them to get my drugs if I was clucking."

(Offender)

"I have heard people saying they have a disease or illness so what can you do to stop taking drugs, drinking alcohol and change?"

(Prison Staff)

"Even if I was prescribed heroin I would still go and use more drugs on top of this. Change happens when people make their mind up to change."

(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.