

19th Jan 2010

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

What works for you?....Identifying and engaging with those who can help

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway:

Participants: 14 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 2 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 CRI & 2 PD

LEARNINGS

"Heroin is a powerful drug. If it wasn't, why do you think there are so many addicts who can't get off it?" (Offender)

"Using drugs was constantly on my mind." (Offender)

"Drugs-it is the easiest club to get into but the hardest to get out of." (Agency)

"Licence conditions don't work they just put more pressure on." (Offender)

"I don't believe there should be licences. I have seen some that are so complicated that it appears to be impossible to keep to them." (Prison Officer)

"There are lots of agencies out there. I go to the ones that work for me." (Offender)

"We should be able to serve our sentence, have no licence and still be able to get help from these agencies." (Offender)

There are agencies and people in the community who can help practically and with rehabilitation.

We are all faced with setbacks. It is how we deal with these, learning from them and seeking help and advice where we can.

"Just by being recalled I have lost my flat, my possessions-because I was burgled and now I have to start all over again." (Offender)

"If you don't agree with the recall are you able to appeal it?" (Police)

"I am (appealing it)." (Offender)



If we don't agree with something, learn how to challenge these things in the correct way.

"I was working when a police officer came to my place of work and told my employer I had a record. I then got the sack." (Offender)

"There are agencies out there that are able to give help and guidance about getting back to work. Including back to work interviews and advice on how to disclose previous convictions." (Police)

"After listening to you lot I realise my problems are nowhere as bad as yours and I am grateful." (Offender)

"We are like recycling...for years no one wanted to know and now it's big business." (Offender)

"We can recycle ourselves-like we are a plastic bottle that first of all we fill with water and then beer. You can choose what you want to put into it. You can choose what you want to do with it. You can choose what you want to be." (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.