

19th May 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Come and meet those who hold Political Office

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Drugs and Alcohol & Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour

Participants: 10 Offenders and 6 (Prison Staff, Police, BCHA, Bmth Councillor, MP Candidate, Poole Council)

LEARNINGS

"If I tell the staff that someone's up to no good then I have to be looking over my shoulder. I don't need that. The staff should be more proactive and prevent this from happening. It's a vulnerable time."
(Offender)

"It doesn't matter where you go, hostels, treatment centres, there will always be people using. You can criticise the staff and say they're not doing enough about it, but they are there to help you if you choose to. You have to make the right call at every point."
(Offender)

"I have been into a supported clean hostel on my release from Prison and it was like a crack den. Within a couple of weeks I was using again and robbing, then back in prison. What good is a place like that."
(Offender)

Dialogue sessions are an opportunity to have your say and be heard by those with influence.

Your environment is important for you to achieve your goals, but you are the most crucial factor.

"It's not easy working in a supported accommodation environment. People tell you things about other people and it's hard to know what lies behind it. There is a lot of manipulation. You know when someone is using drugs, but the testing can be got round and you have to have evidence to put someone on the street. It's a minefield."
(BCHA)



There are many ways to skin a cat – no-one can walk in your shoes, but people can help you on your journey.

"There doesn't seem to be any provision for alcohol treatment out there."
(Offender)

"That is going to change following research by the Government. It will be coming on stream soon. The findings on that very issue will be reflected in what is available."
(Prison Staff)

"I'm standing as an MP for Bournemouth West at the next election. I'm grateful to meet you all and listen first hand to your problems and experiences. I hope that if I am elected I can speak with more authenticity and insight on this subject. Thank you for having me."
(MP Candidate)

"Would it be helpful to have prescribed heroin and shooting galleries, bearing in mind the crimes that are committed and the time in prison that follows?"
(Councillor)

"I think it would enable people to address issues rather than committing crime, and help to reduce the merry-go-round we see now."
(BCHA)

"I'm not sure – there are pros and cons."
(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.