

2nd Dec 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

It's not what happens to you. It's how you handle it

Participants: 16 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 Agency and 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I would love to work. I have experience. Or even do voluntary work. But probation tell me I have to do this, can't do that and have to do courses I've done before. I just want to work."

(Offender)

"As an offender it's the fear of the work environment and everything around it - the CV, the interview - maybe you've never worked, having to admit you've been in prison."

(Offender)

"I'm an addict. I need instant gratification. The temptation is to take what I can as opposed to starting at the bottom and working my way up."

(Offender)

Although agencies put barriers in the way, sometimes it's your own pride and fears.

We're all individuals and should be treated as such because we're each ready to change at different times.

When you say f**k you, the only person you are hurting is yourself.

"I believe anyone can get a job. It's whether you're prepared to do the job you can get and start at the bottom. It's all about a pride thing."

(Offender)

"Staff need to be more aware of what is available for offenders in regards to training. It's amazing what you've found out under your own steam. You should write it down to show other offenders and staff."

(Prison Staff)

"S**t happens. It's how you deal with the situation. It happened to me. It happens to everyone. We all have things that happen in our life out of our control or we don't think is fair. It's what you do after that counts."

(Police)

"I had six probation officers over a three year period and I didn't get a chance to get to know them, yet I'm criticised for not opening up to my probation officer. When I did open up and told the truth I was recalled to prison."

(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.