

2nd June 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Leaving prison can be the start of more problems

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Drugs & Alcohol / Finance, Benefit / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 7 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 BCHA, 1 CRI & 1 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"I'm possibly being released on Monday and I need safe accommodation. I'm going to be on a methadone script this time and I have not had anyone speak to me about what happens when I get out in terms of getting my script continued." (Offender)

"Someone has been racist about me behind my back. I've helped the person in all manner of ways and then that happens. I'm really angry and it's all I can do to control the rage inside me. I spoke to this person man to man and they are just taking the mickey out of me." (Offender)

"It's sad to see there are still people out there who are of such little intelligence. You almost have to pity that person for being so stupid. Racism is not so prevalent now as it was 20 yrs ago but it is still out there." (Offender)

The dialogue group is working hard to bring people who can effect change to the group.

Making sure people have benefits in place when released from prison reduces risk of reoffending.

If you feel your needs are not being met, keep asking until they are.

"What should happen is that your Carats worker will notify the DIP team and someone will come and see you from that team and signpost you to Park Lodge and ensure a seamless transfer of your methadone into the community. Now and then one can slip through. Come and see me afterwards." (Agency)



"We need to get some people with influence from the benefits agency to come to our group. These are basic issues and essential to managing risk. Those first few days are a vulnerable time. This issue has been spoken of many times and we need to act." (Prison Staff)

"I have learnt something new today. I thought that when people are on a script in prison then it was just automatic in the community. That's really useful. All these years in the service and I never knew that." (Prison Staff)

"We accommodated a high risk offender who was released on bail from prison to Dorset Lodge. This meant he got no discharge grant. He's likely to receive no benefits for a few weeks. All the money spent along the way and leaving someone with nothing for such a long time – it's crazy!." (Agency)

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.