

2nd September 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Getting real about offending

Participants: 9 Offenders & 3 Others (Prison Officer, OMU staff & PD)

LEARNINGS

"The police harass me. I was having dinner in a restaurant with my girlfriend and her parents. 2 coppers came in and asked me what I was doing that night. It was embarrassing in front of them. It's disrespectful."
(Offender)

"I don't understand why I'm targeted. There aren't really any victims of my crimes. I do commercial burglary and ram raiding shops – like the Spar. They're national and they've got insurance to cover it."
(Offender)

"You imagine an old person on an estate where the shops are being ram raided all the time being too scared to go out. I can imagine that."
(Offender)
"It has an impact on the whole community."
(Offender)

Commercial crimes have victims, they impact people and communities.

"If you commit crime you've got to expect that you can end up in prison and if you're a prolific, the police will be watching you"
(OMU staff)

I do want to change. I've got a 19 month old daughter. When I was out I was taking her out - to Monkey world and that."
(Offender)

"That's your motivation to change."
(Offender)

If you commit crime there are consequences, not just prison also police attention and a reputation.



There is more to life than money. People appreciate their family and simple freedoms.

"We keep committing crime because it's easy money. You're used to £1000 a week for dealing drugs and you get £100 for working in a shop."
(Offender)

It's pride. You don't want people to see you working in MacDonalds."
(Offender)

"It doesn't seem fashionable now to tell people what to do - it's good to get into a conversation looking at committing crime and what you have to accept will happen to you if you do that."
(Prison Officer)

"I've been here a week. I've been told I'm looking at double figures. I never expected this. I'm a family man. I've got 4 kids and I miss them and I'm really struggling.... It's been good to sit down and talk."
(Offender)

"I've learned that money isn't everything. That's what I've always thought and that's why I've always ended up in here. There's more to life."
(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.