

20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

### Home is where the heart is!

Participants: 9 Offenders, 1 Police, 1 Prison Staff & 1 BCA

LEARNINGS

"I went to prison and gave up my flat with a housing association. I had assurances that my stuff would be kept as I was in regular contact with them even when I was in here. I found out last week that all my stuff has been thrown away, worse of all my papers, pictures, certificates. They have always been good to me but I feel let down."  
(Offender)

"There is an issue of storage. You can't keep everything. There is no space. I regret the loss of your personal items, that is terrible."  
(Agency)

"I always used to blame others for the things I've done. My dad blamed himself but I told him it's down to me. I knew what I was doing."  
(Offender)

Your problems don't disappear if you move to a new area.

You can replace a fridge but you can't replace personal items.

"I don't understand why probation sent me away from my home area, far from my family and their support – Why?"  
(Offender)

"The idea is to stop people falling into bad company, old associates, old places."  
(Agency)

Whoever and whatever is to blame for our situations, only we can make it better.

"It seems to me that whether you are in Bristol, Plymouth or anywhere away from your home town, if you're using then you will find the people who are doing the same."  
(Prison Staff)

"It's not for an offender supervisor to help determine which prison you will be transferred to. That is the job of the OCA. If you want to do the twelve steps then where you do that is down to them."  
(Prison Staff)

"Can I be moved to another prison if I refuse to go? Can force be used to coerce me?"  
(Offender)

"I'm not sure about that. It maybe that the accepting prison is made aware of the situation and will decide to take or otherwise."  
(Prison Staff)



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.