

20th May 2008

# Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester

## Police 3

9 offenders, 1 Staff members, 1 External Agency and 1 from PD took part.

### Learnings

'I don't want to go to a bail hostel when it's full of sex offenders and users when I'm trying to be clean. I rather be at home with my family, but if Probation want me in an approved address, I don't want it to be like that.' (Offender)

'I want to do something with my day – like voluntary work. Cleaning beaches or graffiti, anything to keep busy so at the end of the day, I feel like I achieved something – if you tied that in with a hostel it might work.' (Offender)

'We were in a session two years ago when this hostel thing came up – what's been done about it since? Nothing. Are we going to be sat here having the same conversation in two years time?' (Offender)

**Good ideas can only realise with strong partnership input from all relevant quarters**

'Why not have the Police buy a property and manage it as a properly monitored release hostel. You could have drug teams, counsellors, housing people on site – no one's going to try anything if the police are around and if they do they go straight back to jail – it could move us towards supported housing because right now, people are ending up in the night shelter.' (Offender)

**A Police-led secure hostel for offenders, with support interventions on site and unpaid community work activities would help offenders find their feet after release.**

'Once you get past a certain point, they look at your past convictions and never give you bail. You have to give someone a bit of trust – in prison there are crazy people, people who smash up and kick their doors down, but if they get given the chance to be orderlies, they always make the best cleaners.' (Offender)

**People need to be trusted in order to progress.**



'I think this police led hostel is a very good idea – I haven't heard it before. These ideas are only successful when other agencies take their share of commitment too. We could lead but we couldn't do it all – I will take this idea further when I get back today.' (Police)

'We don't mind being monitored – most of us are glad of the attention and the help. We need it' (Offender)

'I've had it said to me by one of my regular shoplifters: 'what do I have to do to get help?' It's crazy but his offending isn't serious enough.' (Police)

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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership