

21<sup>st</sup> Oct 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

## I need a home

Participants: 14 Offenders, 1PD, 1 Police, 4 Prison Staff & SMT, 2 Prison Area, 3 B'mouth Council & 2 Agency

### LEARNINGS

"I wouldn't want to put someone in a house that was not fit for a cat."  
(Prison Staff)

"If it's a choice of barely livable or being on the street, it's a tough choice."  
(B'mouth Council)

"I need supported accommodation where no-one is using drugs. My previous experience was being offered crack by 3 people in a hostel on my first day. It makes it so difficult."  
Offender)

"Why do probation make me go into supported accommodation. I have a partner, a family and somewhere to go."  
(Offender)

"Every case is risk assessed individually. There's always a reason."  
(Prison Staff)

There is a shortage of housing for many groups including offenders.

Keeping the council updated of your circumstances can boost your chance of successfully getting housing.

People who work for the council are human too and it makes a difference to know that.

"I've been on the housing list for 12 years and I've never had my own front door."  
(Offender)

"You have to update your application every year. Once you apply, you need to be proactive and let us know changes in your circumstances."  
(B'mouth Council)



"I'm here with two hats. I work in housing and am in recovery. I know your frustrations. I can't work miracles but I'm on your side."  
(B'mouth Council)

"It's good to know that real human beings are in positions of influence."  
(Offender)

"Housing is a fundamental requirement. Without housing all the work we do to reduce offending behaviour is worthless. Councillors want crime reductions and safe neighbourhoods so they need to house offenders. Take that back to the electors - it's a winning message."  
(Prison Area Office)

"From my perspective, the prison service and the council are pulling in different directions."  
(Prison Staff)

"There is a shortage in accommodation. We're pulling the same way. It's just our load is a heavy one."  
(B'mouth Council)

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.