

21st April 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Actions lead to consequences

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Mental & Physical Health / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 13 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 BCHA, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 Poole Council & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"It can get frustrating in here. You feel cut off. I've written loads of letters etc, the phone costs too much and nothing seems to happen. Problems then escalate in your head, you feel isolated and spend too much time thinking. It effects your mental health."

(Offender)

"I hate being a PPO. As soon as I'm out I get harassed by police waiting for me to put a foot wrong. I was doing alright and made one stupid mistake, now I'm back in here."

(Offender)

"Everything in life is the same. We all have our own problems to deal with. It's how you cope and move on that counts"

(Prison Staff)

Offending can affect family as well as yourselves.

Life can seem hard to everyone at times. It's how you deal with it that matters.

You can't fight the system forever. You have to learn to live within society.

"I have an ASBO that bans me from all pubs in Bournemouth. I popped into one to collect my wages and got nicked. The police were watching me."

(Offender)

"If you had contacted the police and gone with them or got someone else to go on your behalf then that wouldn't have happened."

(Police)

"I hate the police. When I was 15 years old I was roughed up by police on a couple of occasions and have hated them ever since."

(Offender)

"You've stereotyped all police yet moan that they've done it to you."

(Prison Staff)

"I want to stop offending as I'm fed up of the effect it's having on my mother. She's tired of the police bashing down the door at all hours looking for me because of what I've done."

(Offender)

"Yesterday I had someone contact me for advice. He was recently out of prison and trying to go straight but was having problems with people from his old street life trying to tax him as they had done previously. He wants to draw a line and stand up for himself but is afraid by doing so he will end up back in prison. Contacting the police to help was a new experience for him."

(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, challenge, responsibility and early intervention. Threshold Dialogue is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.