

23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2008

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Change is out there

Participants: 5 Offenders, 1 Police, 1 Prison Staff and 1 Agency

LEARNINGS

"I know I've only got myself to blame for the way I am. I wouldn't have listened to anyone telling me what to do."

(Offender)

"Drugs is a matter of choice. It's you who has to decide not to take drugs anymore."

(Offender)

"Prison is not what it used to be. Years ago when I first came to prison, it was much harsher. It's luxury now. You can have a kettle, play station and not have to get up if you don't want to."

(Offender)

"I might not have turned out the way I was if I'd had a different upbringing. I wasn't punished for getting into trouble, I was punished for bringing Police to the door which interrupted my parents who were up to no good. It was do as I say not what I do."

(Offender)

"I hate coming to prison and make every attempt to avoid being caught but once you're there, it's easy. I fit straight in like I've never been away. It's like I'm institutionalised."

(Offender)

"For many, prison is structure. It's the structure in their lives that is missing. Some have never had it in their lives which is why a lot of prisoners are at home here. Some even commit offences just to get a bed for Xmas."

(Prison Officer)

"I don't want to come back to prison again. I've had enough. I know I need to stay away from the drink as it's the cause of my problems. It's something I've come to expect."

(Offender)

Structure is an important part of rehabilitation.

The decision to change starts with yourself.

Prison shouldn't just be a place to recharge your batteries.



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.