

23rd Sept 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Who do we listen to and what difference does it make?

Participants: 15 Offenders, 1 Prison Officer, 1 External Agency and 2 from PD

LEARNINGS

"I take advice and feedback from my partner. Without her I never would have been clean."

"Lots of people give you advice – I choose which bits to take notice of."

(Offenders)

"Some people on the estates where I work would welcome groups of offenders volunteering to help regenerate their estates."

(Agency)

"My brother gives me advice... in the past I've used the advice to my own ends, to do what I wanted to do anyway." "I always know what the good advice is but I never follow it."

(Offenders)

We need to be able to trust people in order to take their advice and feedback.

Whatever the approach to trying to stop people from offending, it's the motivation to change that is key.

We have an appetite for a dialogue with members of our community.

"Prison is so full of bullshit, you just can't go believing everything you hear on the landings."

"You filter us and we filter you. We know who the good officers are who try to sort things out – if they can't do it they come back and explain."

(Offenders)



"To have a victim come into this group would be too much – but a member of the community would work, to hear about our impact on the community. It's the ripples that go out from the crime. Even if it turns one head then that would be worthwhile." (Offender)

"I'd like them to understand us and what it's like in the prison, rather than the way it's portrayed in the media. Most people have never been in, so they only know what the media tells them."

(Offender)

"We all know what the right thing to do is – but when we're faced with it all that goes out the window. You want the drugs so you commit the crime. You don't think about the victim or the consequences."

(Offender)

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.