

25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Work is the way forward

Participants: 12 Offenders & 8 Others (Prison Staff, Police, B'mouth Council, Agencies & BCHA)

LEARNINGS

"I want to work when I leave prison. I don't need another drug awareness program. I've done them before. I know what is good for me and I want a job."

(Offender)

"Bringing everyone together at the dialogues – offenders, agencies, police – is how we can change things for the better. Hearing what the problems are right from the horses mouth and finding solutions. That makes a difference." (Police)

"Bournemouth has lottery funding available if a well thought out multi-partnership working bid can be put together. Lets try to see if it's possible to get some employers and training into the prison. Lets get them to the dialogue. Who knows....." (B'mouth Council)

Doing voluntary work can lead to paid employment.

Being recognized as an individual and not just part of a process makes a difference.

Bringing people together can find solutions that make a difference.

"If probation treated us as individuals and spoke to us, we might stop coming back to prison. It's like we're all put in the same box – one size fits all."

(Offender)

"Probation are driven by the requirement of public protection, like the prison service. They have little or no flexibility in what they can give you."

(Prison Officer)

"Voluntary work is a road into further employment. It shows an employer you are ready, willing and able to work."

(Agency)

"Employers don't want to know you if you have a criminal record. It's very disheartening when you are trying so hard to change."

(Offender)

"Waiting for a CRB check to begin your voluntary work can take months. It's happened to me before. I had so much enthusiasm when I came out of prison but the time spent waiting around just ruined it. It would be good if the CRB process could begin while still in prison."

(Offender)

"We need to bring voluntary groups and employers into the dialogue groups, find the ones who will employ those with a criminal record and try to get something moving while you are still in prison. We must do things better."

(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.