

25<sup>th</sup> Aug 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

## Probation Probation Probation

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 10 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 CRI, 1 Police, 1 Probation & 1 BCHA

### LEARNINGS

"When you are assigned to probation on release it's part of your sentence and is an alternative to prison. You have to realise you aren't free and attending probation is part of the condition of the release."

(Probation)

"I think they should do away with probation, make people serve their sentence in full but also give the offenders something worthwhile to do while serving their sentence like they used to do."

(Prison Staff)

"People should be treated as individuals and not labelled. We are all different."

(Offender)

"My probation Officer has helped me and done their best to avoid putting me back in prison."

(Offender)

You can't fight the system forever.

It's all about ownership and personal responsibility.

Everyone deserves a chance.



"I know people who have been recalled to prison for being just ten minutes late."

(Offender)

"If I was a probation officer, I would do the same. You should make an effort to be ten minutes early even. You need to show you can do as you're supposed to. Being late is disrespectful."

(Prison Staff)

"It's been said by several offenders in this group before that the more you fight against probation, the harder it becomes and the more likely you are to get recalled."

(Police)

"I couldn't get on with probation for years but the last time I was given a probation officer I got on really well with her and stopped fighting against them. Things went much easier."

(Offender)

"I know what I did was wrong. It wasn't planned, it just happened. I was on a drink and drug binge. Everyone binges now."

(Offender)

"Sounds like you are in denial. It starts with just drinking at the weekend, before you know it you are drinking every day."

(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.