

26th August 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

A supportive group

Participants: 6 Offenders & 3 Others (Prison Staff, Police & PD)

LEARNINGS

"You got to be strong. It's about being a man – taking whatever is thrown at you. This is prison. When I come in I get ready for all the ****. I expect it. Then you're not shocked or disappointed when it comes."

(Offender)

"It's like X said in the group this morning. 'Do what you can to change what is in your control. What is beyond your control - let it go'."

(Police)

"I'm going to my sentence expiry date in 6 months. I'll be a free man for the first time since I was 15. I've always been in prison or on licence or some sort of order."

(Offender)

You can turn a bad day into a better one by talking things through.

When serious things are bothering you, you can raise them at this group and people will listen, give you different perspectives and offer help.

The help people are offered on release isn't always the help they think they need.

"My girlfriend's talking about leaving me. I've not seen my daughter for two months. I am that close to pressing the **** it button. I've got this feeling in my chest like butterflies - like I'm excited or something."

(Offender)

"That's uncertainty - fear of the unknown."

(Prison Staff)

"Talking has helped. I feel happier - that feeling in my chest has gone."

(Offender)

"I started off feeling really fed up but I feel alright now."

(Prison Staff)

"Some people don't get enough help on release - I got too much. I wanted to stay with my uncle - he's a drug counsellor. He was going to help me get a job and everything. But they wanted me to stay in a supported hostel and go to groups. Then I was on the dole. It wasn't what I wanted."

(Offender)

"There isn't the support out there for people when they're released."

(Offender)

"What ever else is & isn't available, I know that BTD is there, in Boscombe, every Tuesday evening at 6. The agencies, the ex-offenders and people who are here now will be there to support you. Whatever you need at least that is a start." (PD)



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.