

27th Jan 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

There is light at the end of the tunnel

Participants: 14 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 3 B'mouth Council, 1 Councillor & 1 Agency

LEARNINGS

"I'm back in for a breach of my license. I was released NFA. I want to stay clean but the only people I know are using. I've been clean before but I need somewhere to stay to have any chance."
(Offender)

"I was on the waiting list for supported accommodation. Why wasn't my housing set up before I came out? I ended up homeless, I missed a couple of probation appointments and here I am. What did probation do for me?" (Offender)

"People are in and out of here like yo-yos. We need to think outside the box. Why can't we have accommodation where Police, Probation and other services are on site. If the whole idea is to cut re-offending then why not this model?" (Prison Staff)

Some employers will employ ex-offenders.

People do turn their lives around.

"Do B'mouth Council employ people with criminal records?" (Offender)

"I have one lad now who is a plumber. He has a bad history of drugs and crime. We kept a close eye on him at first. Now he is the best man I've got. I think he tries harder because of the chance he was given."
(B'mouth Council)

Being released with nowhere to live increases the chance of re-offending.

"It's inspirational to hear that it can be done, a life turned around. It would be great to talk to him. Bring him to the group, we would love to see that."
(Offender)

"I will ask him to come along, see how he did it."
(B'mouth Council)

"This is my first time in a prison and I didn't know what to expect. I've enjoyed listening to and talking with you. Thank you."
(B'mouth Council)

"Thanks for coming to the group. It's great that you take the time and trouble to come and spend time here."
(Offender)

"From what I'm hearing, it's almost like you would prefer to stay in prison and not get early release. Is that right?"
(B'mouth Council)

"Maybe in some cases but most just can't wait to get out and take the first opportunity to do so. It's just that they end up coming back again."
(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.