

28<sup>th</sup> April 2009

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

### Change does not happen overnight

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 10 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 BCHA, 1 CRI & 1 PD

### LEARNINGS

"Prison is no deterrent. I get visits every day apart from Tuesday and TV in my cell. Just a few years ago there was no electric and life was harder." (Offender)

"Isn't the deterrent being away from your girlfriend and your mum? Isn't that something that hurts and makes you think twice?" (CRI)

"I would never break into someone's house or hurt anyone. If someone did my family any harm I would go mad." (Offender)

"What about the hurt your family feel knowing you are locked up. It must play on your mind." (CRI)

"When I look at you, it's like looking at me 20 years ago. You have an addiction to crime and money. It's the same as drugs, alcohol or sex. You can go to meetings, you will get fed up of the revolving door. I'm not coming back here again. I keep busy in here all the time to keep my focus." (Offender)

Having money does not make you happy but it helps.

We can all change the way we think, but you must want to change.

What happens to you matters to people that care about you – they hurt.

"Last time I was out I was on the dole and had a small flat. It was the best time of my life and I want that again. I'm going to use all the skills I've learnt and stay out. I know what makes me go wrong and I'm not making that mistake again. Doing voluntary work and getting a place comes first." (Offender)



"It's hard to exist, to pay the rent, the bills, run a car. It's the easy way just to steal, that's what I know. I've taken my friends on holiday. I can't honestly say I won't do it again. I want to change but I don't know if I can change." (Offender)

"My family are loaded - Nice cars, lovely house, the works. My brother has got cancer, he's had all the drugs going, money won't help you then. Your health is priceless. It's family that come first. Money is nothing without that." (Offender)

"There is no help in prison unless you're a drug addict. It's the same in the community, only bits and pieces, if you're on drugs they throw money at you." (Offender)

"ETS courses are available for everyone, education the same. If you choose not to do them it's up to you, those skills can help in any situation." (Prison Staff)

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.