

29th April 2008

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester

Should I Stay Or Should I Go?

4 offenders, 1 Staff member and 2 from PD took part.

Learnings

'I spent a while in St Anne's. I was diagnosed as bi-polar. They told me to go to the doctor to get some lithium, but when I got there I was half pissed so he refused to prescribe me. I haven't been back yet, but I'd like to be balanced out.' (Offender)

'I got turned down for early release because they said my property was unsuitable. I got an ASBO at christmas because I went away to my brother's and let some friends stay there and they were partying all night. (Offender)'

'There's a new discharge board now for everyone getting released. I'm sitting on one tomorrow. It's a chance for the prison to assess your suitability for release.' (Staff)

The early release structure is confusing, complicated and it keeps changing.

'They told me that if you go for HDC and you get turned down, it'll affect your chances of 18 day release so you're best not to go for HDC anyway.' (Offender)

'I think it's more that you get turned down for HDC for a reason and unless those reasons have changed you're still unlikely to be eligible.' (Staff)

'It seems like there's a lot of ways to get released at short notice – conditional discharge, J&C, parole board, release from court, 18 day early release. It seems like the rules change all the time. No wonder everyone gets confused.' (Staff)

'I've come back in again. I'm going round and round all the time. I've got to break the cycle and that's why I'm coming to this group. I can't keep going in and out for the rest of my life. I've got to put a stop to it.' (Offender)

'The reason that these groups work is that there's so many structures, so many rules, but there's a knowledge here, it's about the real stuff, the stuff that doesn't get written down.' (Staff)

Much of what we talk about isn't covered by rules and guidelines – it's about how to make the best choices while working within a set of formal rules

We have to stay focused on real steps forward. Practical things you can do to change.

"Will the Police be in uniform next week?" (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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership