

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008

# Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester

## They might not say it, but it's what they're thinking

6 offenders, 1 Staff member, 2 external agencies and 1 from PD took part

### Learnings

'I like to go out and have a drink and stuff. I get around and it's alright. But what you lot are talking about is different – it's addiction, it's scary. I'm not like that.' (Offender)

'Yes, it's addiction, yes it's scary. The difference between you and me is that I know what I'm up against, where you're trying to sweep it under the carpet. Best of luck to you.' (Offender)

'In the 18 years I've been in the prison service I've seen them waste money on all sorts of initiatives. They should be putting money in to the right things – things that work.' (Staff)

It's hard to move on if you can't admit you've got a problem

'Sometimes I've had a little use up, I check myself in the mirror before I go out and think: 'yeah, looking good', except I'm probably not. To everyone else it's obvious you're at it, but perhaps they don't want to rock the boat or hurt your feelings. They might not come out and say it to your face, but it's what they're thinking to themselves.' (Offender)

People don't always tell you what they're thinking. It's easy enough to convince yourself that you're fooling everyone, even if you're not fooling them at all

'The reason they kick you out of the night shelter between 9 and 5 is that everyone needs structure in their lives – you know, like proper normal people. People who get up every morning and go to work and pay their way and come home every night. It's how it ought to be.' (Offender)

'I'm always there, on the train with a beer. That's it for me, by the time I've made it to Bournemouth I've made my mind up or it's made up for me. I bump into someone I know and I end up using. I don't feel like I have control over it.' (Offender)

'Thanks for coming along to our group. Thanks for taking the time to listen. It's appreciated, we don't get heard that often.' (Offender)

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

'I've only been to couple of these but I'm into it – I'll be coming back.' (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