

30th Dec 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Actions speak louder than words

Participants: 8 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 2 Police, 1 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"I've done two sentences for other people and they've looked after me ever since when I've been inside."

(Offender)

"If your friends are asking you to do things that are bad for you then they're not friends and you need to change who you're friends with."

(Offender)

"My mother said 'If things in your life aren't going right, it's because you're not doing the right things. If you make your bed you've got to lay in it and if you want it to be different you've got to change your bed.'"

(Offender)

"You can be out there on the streets but if your head isn't in the right space it doesn't matter what help you're offered. When your head is in the right space you'll know where to go when you want help."

(Offender)

Talk can be cheap unless it's backed up by real change.

These sessions make you aware of the support and people that can help you when you're ready to access it.

Listening to other people's perceptions on things can challenge our own perceptions.

"I'd like to ask you honestly, do you think prison is easy these days?"

(Prison Staff)

"It's been difficult for me, not being able to do what you want, when you want to.... the loneliness, the boredom...it's killing me...if that's not difficult I don't know what is."

(Offender)



"I've actually had a better time inside over Christmas that I would have had outside. I have no support or family outside and I would have got into trouble."

(Offender)

"I am changing but my whole life has been about crime. My mum's a criminal, my dad's a criminal, my whole family and friends are criminals. I'm very anti-authority, I'm against everything the police stand for – the uniforms, the cars, the emblems...."

(Offender)

"You've got to change the way you think mate, you've got to change the way you look at authority. You've changed some things but you need to change more."

(Offender)

"You've changed but you expect other people to change instantly towards you, but you need to show other people you've changed."

(B'mouth Council)

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.