

30<sup>th</sup> September 2008

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

### “Times they are a changing”

Participants: 17 Offenders & 6 Others (Prison Staff, Bournemouth Borough Council, Police & PD)

#### LEARNINGS

“I think if all of us are honest with ourselves, we are the ones who fail but blame the places like the dry house.”

(Offender)

“In supported housing I give 110% but there is someone using in the room next to me. In the end I give up giving up.”

(Offender)

“It’s your choice to be homeless. I have never been homeless for more than three days. There is lots out there. You have got to take responsibility to find it.”

(Offender)

Barriers can be broken down by communicating openly.

Police are not there just to enforce the law but to prevent crime by providing support with other agencies.

Progress takes time. Everybody has to adapt to these changes.

“What are you doing to help us? I think you, the police, should do more to help us instead of just locking us up.”

(Offender)

“I don’t have to be here. I do my job. It’s the system that lets you down. I think there should be more help. It’s a funding issue.”

(Police)

“I got a letter from the police offering help. There’s a problem with help from the police – there’s a barrier I cannot overcome. It’s always been there. The letter has come 20 years too late.”

(Offender)

“What we have got in the room today we would not have had 7 years ago. You would not have had the opportunity to speak to the police and break down those barriers.”

(Prison Officer)



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.