

Session 6
4th March 2008

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester

Housing. How to survive when things around you are collapsing.

7 offenders, 1 Staff member and 1 from PD took part.

What we learned::

The need for self-reliance

Positive attitude/ action

How to handle housing crisis

'I always get bounced around between places. Being evicted because I was honest about being in recovery or feeling threatened in dry houses. I got my tent and camped in the woods for a week.'
(Offender)

'I've always committed to recovery, I even checked myself into rehab when I felt a relapse coming on, when I've been released from prison I've done extra months of treatment of my own accord. (Offender)

'I've had my own place ever since I started working. Listening to you today I realise that I couldn't bear to be beholden to someone else. Landlords mucking people around – I'm glad I'm not on the end of that. '
(Staff)

'If you're relying on the council to sort anything out for you – forget it. They never do anything in a hurry and they don't really care either way. I went and got my own work sorted so I could pay my way for two months before the money came through. You have to have that head on you to survive, otherwise you'll be out on the street.'
(Offender)

'It's keeping the right head on, being self-sufficient, not expecting handouts, never giving up or losing hope.'
(Offender)

'People slag off the Night Shelter but there are good things about it. If you've got a job you get up, have breakfast, hand your key in and go off to work. Then you come back at 5 and it's open again. There's good workers there grafting hard to make it run properly.'
(Offender)

'You've GOT to do the courses that are on offer here. I'll do them as many times as it takes – like SDP. I need that information repeated again and again because it might be that one inches worth of difference that stops me from relapsing.'
(Offender)

'Life is hard. Having hope for the future is so important – people CAN change.'
(Staff)
'I like hearing other people's opinions. I need to keep focused.'
(Offender)
'Be positive.'
(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