

4<sup>th</sup> May 2010

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

## Politics

Participants: 8 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police & 1 CRI

## LEARNINGS

"When I was at Guys Marsh we handed a package of ideas on how to improve the prison to a visiting MP in front of the press. He feigned interest and took the pack with him. The same pack was discovered untouched in a car 3 months later."

(Offender)

"They (politicians) promise so much then fail to deliver."

(Everyone)

"I don't think it matters which one you vote for - what they promise and what they can all deliver can't be too different from each other."

(Police)

Don't give up or give in.

The bigger the voice the more likely you will be heard.

"They (political parties) all talk about communities working together and about the idea that everyone should take responsibility. This should include the rehabilitation of offenders."

(Police)

Everyone should take responsibility

"You used to get prisoners in work parties out on allotments and sweeping the roads directly outside the prison etc. This doesn't happen anymore. Cuts are meaning less training and opportunities for offenders. How can this be productive?"

(Prison Staff)

"The change in attitude needs to start from the top down otherwise how are we going to bring about effective progressive change. The more we spread the message the more people will take notice. We can only try."

(Prison Staff)

"You have to know what you want to achieve otherwise no-one can help you."

(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, challenge, responsibility and early intervention. Threshold Dialogue is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.