

6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Same s\*\*t, different day

Participants: 12 Offenders, 1 Police, 1 Prison Staff, 1 B'mouth Council & 1 BCHA

LEARNINGS

"They've got power over you (probation). They make you do things just because they can. Sometimes it doesn't make sense. They put you in a hostel you don't want to be in."

(Offender)

"I'm due out next week and I don't know where I'm supposed to go or what to do. I've not heard anything from anyone. My Probation Officer was useless."

(Offender)

"I've got nothing when I get out. I will need accommodation, employment etc. I've come to this meeting to see if anyone can help."

(Offender)

Some systems just don't work the way they should.

For things to change, both the system and individuals need to change.

Sometimes it's not the systems, but not knowing how the systems work.

"I have a place set up for me which is clean, drug free and not in bedsitland full of druggies but probation insist in keeping me in a hostel full of people I don't like. They even refuse to check out the address I've set up."

(Offender)



"I don't have any problem with probation. I know people have a lot of problems with them. I found when I finished with probation, I missed the support."

(Offender)

"Sometimes you have to just bite the bullet and do what probation and other agencies tell you to."

(Offender)

"We're here to see if we can change the system. The current system of locking people up and then kicking them out isn't working. We have to find a way of stopping this revolving door system."

(Police)

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.