

6<sup>th</sup> July 2010

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

## A Mixture; Short sentences; Community Punishment and Drugs

Participants: 7 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff & 1 CRI

LEARNINGS

"We used to have working parties that left the prison and did productive work that helped people and the community. We used to have workshops here that let offenders do jobs whilst they were here."

Prison Officer

"I had a community order. I had to turn at a place every day and do exercise and give someone a fireman's carry. I could not see what that had to do with anything I had done or how it helps anyone."

Offender

"I don't think short sentences do any good at all; it's not hard to do a couple of months in here. We have play stations and TVs, it's not that bad."

Offender

Short sentences do not prevent re-offending.

Offenders would like to do worthwhile work.

People change when they are ready to change

What would make anyone stop using drugs and change? What does actually help?

Prison Officer

"People change and stop when they are ready to stop and have made their minds up. No-one and nothing can make you if you don't want to."

Offender

"I think there should be harder sentences for some offences like shoplifting; there should be the three strikes rule where you get longer on the third conviction."

Offender

"What I believe is that the people I work with are capable of making decisions and choices on a daily basis. People often seem to sabotage their lives when they seem to be doing well."

Drug worker



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.