

7th October 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Home Sweet Home

Participants: 18 Offenders & 6 Others (Prison Staff, Police, Probation & PD)

LEARNINGS

"All the courses are drug orientated and never purely about offending behaviour. I have been on every course thrown at me and they are all crap."

(Offender)

"Everyone should be allowed the room to make a mistake. I'm here for a poxy driving offence. I don't believe that I should be here when there are sex offenders allowed to go free."

(Offender)

"It's a sad fact that the public want you guys locked up. They are not interested in rehabilitation."

(Probation Manager)

Change doesn't happen overnight.

"The system thinks you are either a drug user, alcoholic or have mental health issues. There are some people who are just offenders. They have been brought up like it and know no different. There's not much on offer for them."

(Prison Officer)

The first step to getting things out of life is this: Decide what you want.

"Through my life and experiences I've learned you have to do things for yourself. You can't expect everyone else to do everything for you. Ask your Landing Officer for letters. Write to your MP, the council or probation."

(Prison Officer)

It's choice, not chance, that determines your destiny.

"I have been in and out of prison at least 7 times since 2003 and have never had a place to go to."

(Offender)

"I'm on a six week sentence. No-one has come to see me. I'm out next week and for me time is running out."

(Offender)

"The problem is that we only have one Housing Officer for the whole prison. She does a very good job - but it takes time to get to everyone."

(Probation Manager)



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.