

8th Dec 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Housing, magistrates and the law
Resettlement Pathway:

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

17 Participants: 10 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Housing, 2 CRI, 1 PD, 1 Magistrate, 1 B'mth Council

LEARNINGS

"Housing is an ongoing issue that we hear about here all the time. But there are people working on it and things are changing. We try to bring the people here that have power to affect change"

Prison Staff

"I sorted out benefits quicker in Poole than back in Birmingham"
Offender
"I had to reoffend to pay for a front door that police kicked in. It was the 3rd time they'd done it"

Offender

"I had no money for 3 months after leaving prison. I did everything by the book. But in the end I felt that I had no option and I had to re-offend"

Offender

Some people have resorted to crime when they have no money – but is it worth it?.

The housing advice service that you receive in this prison is high quality – use it while you are here.

"I've never had help before. Out there there's no-one to help you. I got more help from housing in prison than on the out. Now, if I needed help I'd come back to prison 'cos I know that Karen would help me"

Offender



It's important to know your rights - ask your solicitor, write letters, whatever it takes to find out.

"Remember that Magistrates aren't stupid, we've seen it all before and we can work out what's going on"
"Knowledge is power. It's important to know your rights and be represented by a solicitor"

Magistrate

"Be honest with your probation officer. The more information they have the more they can help"

Magistrate

"Try to stay on good terms with your children's carer while you are in prison. If they can't come up to the prison maybe someone else can bring your child up to see you"

Magistrate

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.