

Session 11
8th April 2008

Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue

'Where everyone learns but nobody teaches.'

Tuesdays 2 - 3.30pm Chapel HMP Dorchester

Snakes and ladders

8 offenders, 1 Staff members and 1 from PD took part.

Learnings

'Stop trying to judge me and tell me how it is or isn't. I'm not listening to you. It's (housing provider's) fault I'm back in here. If they hadn't kicked me out I'd still be out now. I should have been given more chances – it's not fair.' (Offender)

'DRY HOUSE!!! DRY!!! HOUSE!!!
ARRRRGHHHH!!! How many times do I have to hear it, week after week? It is what it says it is – if you drink you get thrown out! Why is that so difficult to understand?' (Offender)

'it's being able to work in groups – I always used to get kicked out of groups but with the help of (X) in this group I've been able to progress. He tells me it like it is.' (Offender)

If people got real and took responsibility, agencies would be able to offer them what they really need.

'I've just come back from a DRR. It was for crack, heroin and cannabis – but not alcohol. I wasn't getting tested for drink so I went out, drank, got in a fight and was arrested for common assault. Thing is because I've already served two months that comes off my sentence and I'll only have a month to six weeks left to serve, then I'm out and a free man.' (Offender)



When we see group members going backwards it's frustrating and familiar.

Seeing my prior attitudes reflected in others is helpful to my progress

'Today you're 180 degrees different from where you were a month ago. You were the one telling us that we ought to get our heads together back then, now look at you. When someone says they're never coming back I believe they mean it – at that point in time. (Offender)

'I'm not judging you, I'm telling it how I see it today. My head was in the exact same place as yours is now only a few weeks ago. I'm learning something about myself from talking with you today.' (Offender)

'I feel like I've grown. I shrink a bit and then I grow some more. Surprised to be here telling someone else how it is – it's been me there recently.' (Offender)

'I'm going to be contacting the British Legion for the lads in Dorchester that are ex-forces.' (Staff)

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, change, responsibility and early intervention. The intervention is supported by Bournemouth Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership