

8<sup>th</sup> July 2008

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3.30pm Chapel

### What's really going on underneath?

Participants: 2 Offenders & 3 Others (Prison Staff & PD)

#### LEARNINGS

"I was 5 weeks homeless, I went round and round – night shelter, job centre. I ended up in December and January sleeping in a bush on the cliff top. I thought about nicking a Cadbury's Crème Egg so I could go back to prison."  
(Offender)

"As soon as you get out you go on a bender. Despite your best intentions you find yourself doing exactly what you said you weren't going to do. Oh no!"  
(Offender)

"I met a Nacro worker last week at the Resettlement Roadshow – he said: 'Everyone in here's so negative. They don't seem to understand that even though you've got a criminal record, it doesn't write you out of the job market.'  
(PD)

Idleness causes trouble.

"I'm back in on a £12.50 theft charge. I was doing fine. I had a flat, my methadone script was there. I could do lots of things with my time now I didn't have to go chasing after drugs. I was in town and wandered into a few shops. Maybe I was bored. I ended up taking some headphones and a charger. I don't know why I did it. I needed it but I could have bought it."  
(Offender)



Behind every person there are personal stories of high and lows and it helps you to understand people when you know them.

"My Probation Officer said not to beat myself up. It was one small theft. Looking further on, I've got accommodation, my methadone is sorted – it could be so much worse. When you don't have to steal anymore it leaves you with a lot of time on your hands. I need a job, something to fill up my day. I'll do anything."  
(Offender)

"Lots of exciting things have happened to me through my life. One was having tea with the Queen and Prince Phillip. I was the youngest in our regiment and was about to get posted on operational duty. I was 17 ¾."  
(Offender)

"I work on the wings all the time but I rarely get the opportunity to hear these candid life stories, to find out what's really going on underneath. I can see it would work much better with more people to bounce off each other."  
(Prison Staff)

We tend to think short term, rather than seeing what's happening now in the context of our whole life journey.

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.