

8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

## Homeless on release from prison??

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 15 Offenders, 4 Prison Staff, 2 Police, 1 Outreach worker

### LEARNINGS

"Mappa placed restrictions on me last time I was out that I couldn't possibly keep. I had a job but they refused to alter my conditions so I could get to work. I believe they set me up to fail as in their opinion the public are safer if I'm locked up."  
(Offender)

"I'm being released in another 4 weeks. I'm now at the end of my sentence so will receive no help whatsoever. I'm still homeless and don't expect a place to live on my release."  
(Offender)

Charities are there to fill holes left by government. They have become an essential part of the system.

Sometimes the services you wish for are impossible to obtain. The responsibility ultimately lies with the individual.

It is difficult to begin to change attitudes and opinions. Eventually someone who is influential will listen if the message is loud enough for long enough.

"Last time I was released, the only reason I had a roof over my head was because of Footprints who found me accommodation. I'm 40 years old, I no longer want to rely on charity to accommodate me. I just want a chance to succeed. If I'm homeless that's less likely. It seems that the agencies who could help just aren't interested."  
(Offender)



"As an offender I feel that I have absolutely no voice. I have written letters and tried to change things but to no avail. What should I do next?"  
(Offender)

"I always go as high up the chain as possible and then go higher if I get no result. It's just as frustrating from my position but I keep on going until someone listens. Sometimes it is absolutely necessary to keep complaining."  
(Agency)

"The prison service has only a finite set of resources like the other agencies, with a seemingly endless number of responsibilities it is up to all of us to make the powers that control the purse strings aware of these problems. When a large number of people are looking to access services and only a few opportunities exist, someone is going to be disappointed."  
(Agency)

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.