

9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2010

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

### Is prison really the answer?

Participants: 6 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 CRI, 1 B'mouth Council & 1 NHS

LEARNINGS

"In the old days if you did something wrong you were punished. It was simpler then. Now it's so complicated."

(Prison Staff)

"There doesn't seem to be any respect anymore, particularly in young people. The parents should bear more responsibility."

(Offender)

"I came from a long family background of criminality. I'm having to break that cycle."

(Offender)

Structure, discipline and respect are important.

Early intervention is important for the young.

"I don't come from a criminal family. I didn't start offending until I was 22. Now I'm worried that even though my young son is a good boy now, he may pick up vibes from me and end up the same."

(Offender)

"Prison is a university of crime. You learn different ways of committing crime as well as networking and meeting people from all over Britain you wouldn't normally have met."

(Offender)

"If you come out of prison with no structure, when you're released you end up like a tornado being let loose through the streets."

(Offender)

"We deal with lots of people with mental health problems when we are not equipped to. I have physically restrained someone with mental health problems because he was under the influence of alcohol and the local mental health hospital refused to assess or take him in unless sober. Some invariably end up in prison which is still sometimes unsuitable."

(Police)



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.