

9th September 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP DORCHESTER

Tuesdays 2 – 3:30pm Chapel

The work you need to do for yourself

Participants: 7 Offenders & 6 Others (Senior Officer, SMT, OMU, Bournemouth Council & PD)

LEARNINGS

"Last time I left with nothing even though I'm a prolific. They didn't arrange any housing for me - just the night shelter. But I was clean so I didn't want to go there. I went to stay with my partner, ended up using and now I'm back here again. Now I think I'm going to get an IPP. It should never have happened."
(Offender)

"I've had 3 different probation officers in 2 years. None of them has ever been up to see me. The latest one asked me to keep in touch with him. Why should I do that if he won't come to see me."
(Offender)

"It saddens me to hear about the changes in your probation officers. I know it happens. I wish it didn't but I can't do anything about it I'm afraid. But do write to them. Then you might find they write back."
(OMU)

It can be hard to face the consequences of our actions.

"Why should I give up taking drugs because someone tells me to? No-one gets hurt. I just do shop lifting."
(Offender)

"What about the people around you. What about the pins people leave lying around."
(Offender)

"When you steal from a shop it increases the prices - that affects everyone."
(Bournemouth Council)



When things go wrong it helps to get them off your chest and make sense of them even if you can't change anything.

"We can't know about your individual case to explain what has happened and we can't put right what has happened in the past. But when things don't work out you need somewhere to talk them through to help you process them. Then you can move on."
(PD)

"I'm an IPP. What chance have I got of getting a job when I get out."
(Offender)

"Probation run workshops to help you think about how to disclose your offences when you apply for work. They often have links to employers. Honesty is the best policy. But it will be hard. You will get knock backs."
(OMU)

The journey to resettlement can be long and tough – you have to expect setbacks.

"It's the little things that trip me up. I had a £2000 grant to do a course for construction. The money was held by the YMCA where I was staying. I was out with some friends. We were drinking and someone handed me a spliff.... The next day I had a random p**s test and it showed positive, just a faint line, but I was chucked out. It was such a small thing."
(Offender)

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.