

12 Jan 2010

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

## Who are you kidding?

Resettlement Pathway: Mental, Physical Health / Benefit, Debt / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 8 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 B'mouth Council, 2 Police & 1 Agency

### LEARNINGS

"I've phoned the DSS before, haven't got anywhere with the person on the end of the phone. I've just slammed the phone down and given up, then gone out grafting."

(Offender)

"If you are scamming the doctor or anyone else, that does have consequences, it is going to come back to you eventually. Who is really benefiting from it?"

(Police)

"People scam the doctor in here, they say they need this and that, then they get it and sell it for baccy."

(Offender)

"Yeah its currency here."

(Offender)

In prison there is an opportunity to come out with ID, a bank account and housing.

Upon release if you are claiming benefits you are entitled to claim a crisis loan.

By cheating the system are you in fact cheating yourself?

"So if you wake up with a really bad headache in here what do you do?"

(Agency)

"You go along to the medical centre you won't even see a doctor - that takes weeks. They might give you some paracetamol."

(Offender)

"I haven't got any ID. I need to get some. Can I do that in prison?"

(Offender)

"You can get an ID card in prison, its good for the DSS and the Co-op bank account. It's a start."

(Agency)

"If you come out and you are going to be claiming benefits you are entitled to claim a crisis loan the same day until your benefits come. When you put in a claim photocopy everything. I do that because things do get lost in the system."

(Agency)

"In the past I've said things that people have wanted to hear. I am not doing that this time but how will they know?"

(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.

