

2 Feb 2010

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Is your way the best way for you?

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Room 9

Resettlement Pathway: Accommodation / Education, Training, Employment / Finance, Benefit, Debt

Participants: 8 Offenders, 3 Prison Staff, 1 Police & 1 Probation

LEARNINGS

"What are the first few days like when you leave prison?"
(Prison Staff)

"Bit mad, full on, a rush. One year I came out and went clubbing, shouldn't have done that."
(Offender)

"Everyone makes mistakes; it's what we learn from them."
(Police)

"Supported housing gives you your own space and staff to talk through any issues, in conjunction with your Probation Officer as additional support in the community."
(Agency)

"Why can't I come out and get straight into my own home and get a job and keep busy? That's what I need to do. Not have signings, curfews etc."
(Offender)

"In some cases it is not an individual making these decisions, it's multi agency eg MAPPA."
(Prison Staff)

We don't always get what we want first time.

"Probation Officers recall you for the slightest thing."
(Offender)

"The last person to ask why they've been recalled is the prisoner. You know it's not always as they portray."
(Prison Staff)

"I've seen recall papers and it's not something done lightly or without good reason. If you are honest with your PO they will work with you."
(Police)



You can't walk out of prison into a job on the top floor. Take one step at a time. Consider training or voluntary work as a good place to start.

"What about our families? – I just want to relax and be with them."
(Offender)

"I can understand what you are saying but there can be pressures put on you by your family. They can't always give you the right support straight from prison."
(Gateway)

"Why do I have to be in that environment (Approved Premises) around people I don't want to be around? I've got a place to go to, I'd be better off there."
(Offender)

"It's got to be assessed. Just because you think it's suitable it may not be the best place for you straight from prison."
(Agency)

"Why do I have to go there (Approved Premises) where I can't use a play station, DVD player or camera phone?"
(Offender)

"Placements are reviewable and based on risk, offending and how you adjust to that environment."
(Prison Staff)

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.