

27 April 2010

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Who knows the unknowable

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Room 9

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 10 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 2 Police, 1 Stonham, 1 Sheffield University & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I've been in the Police for 4 weeks...I spent the first 2 weeks being told 'you can't do that or you'll lose your job!... You have to do things properly and by the book."

(Trainee Police)

"Uncertainty is the prisoner's biggest enemy.... My solicitor told me to blank it all from my mind until I'm released. Then go to probation and sort it all out from there."

(Offender)

"I've done courses 'cos I want to, not to tick any box. I've done the 8DP and IDTS courses.... I'm clean and I want to play clean when I get out."

(Offender)

Things have changed and are continuing to change.

Staff on the outside are managing their work load and/or bed spaces. Offenders are managing their expectation.

"You need to start with the communication with us – with the offenders. You have to break down the barriers with us first – without that nothing changes."

(Offender)



"Lots of things have changed. For example 25 years ago you wouldn't have had a trainee police officer in here. In fact none of us would have been here talking together."

(Police)

"I'm out in 8 weeks – I don't know where I'm gonna live – I don't know what my conditions will be. My family are 30 miles away and can't support me if I'm in Bournemouth. So I don't know what to do"

(Offender)

"We've got 10 beds and people can stay with us for up to 2 years. We assess you before you're released but don't know if we'll have a bed. Housing providers have to manage their vacancies."

(Housing)

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.