

11th Aug 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

How can I re-invent myself?

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Careers

Participants: 7 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff & 1 BCHA

LEARNINGS

"I think joining the army would benefit many of the younger guys – the discipline, the routine, watching out for your mates and them watching out for you. These skills really stand you in good stead for what lies ahead."

(Housing Officer)

"The flip side can be young lads coming back from the carnage, seeing unspeakable horrors that stay with them. You come back into normal life with that in your head. You see lads flipping out when a shop alarm goes off coz it sounds like something from a war zone."

(Offender)

"My dad was someone I looked up to when I was young. As I got older I realised he just let me down and I have disliked him ever since. What a disappointment."

(Offender)

We are all judged on our
pasts.

You can change how people
see you, but it takes time.

The people you look up to
are human too and make
mistakes.

"You probably think that when prison staff go home we plug ourselves into a machine and recharge. We're human too. I had to tell a lad at Christmas that his brother had been killed in a car crash. That stayed with me for so long. It's one of the hardest things you will ever have to do."

(Prison Staff)

"I don't want to go into supported accommodation when I'm released. It's never worked for me before. I'm hoping I can go straight into a flat. I get on well with my probation and I'm doing courses in prison so maybe they will go for that."

(Offender)

"Maybe when you say it never worked for you, it's more accurate to say you never gave it a chance and you were still getting up to no good. You're back in prison again like last year and the year before. If you want the support it is there. It's about getting where you want to go by the shortest route possible. Go back to go forwards."

(BCHA)

"Your probation are not silly, they will use your past behaviour to assess the risk you present. We are all judged on our past. How else can it be done. You can change others perceptions of you but it takes time."

(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.