

12th Aug 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9:00 – 10:30am ETS Room

Don't stop me now!

Participants: 6 Offenders & 4 Others (1 Prison Officer, 1 Housing Officer & 2 PD)

LEARNINGS

"I burgle houses, but I'd never be turning over old granny's or my next door neighbour or anything. I rob rich people in big houses and students because they've always got laptops - I sell stuff to people on my estate. I'm like Robin Hood, I rob from the rich and give to the poor."
(Offender)

"It's not right. It's people's private property. And then what happens if you get disturbed? Either you've got to hurt them and you'll get a life sentence - or they're gonna kill you. My mum got burgled. They took everything."
(Offender)

"Monkees - I'm A Believer
Queen - Don't Stop Me Now
Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better
Meatloaf - I Would Do Anything For Love"
(Staff/prisoner karaoke picks)

Time spent talking about other interests such as music helps us build stronger relationships and see behind labels.

"I'm not into rap and stuff - it just encourages trouble. I used to love it before it got really violent. I'm listening to Womack & Womack. It's beautiful, peaceful music - it doesn't incite anything."
"It's not the lyrics that cause the damage to young people - it's the visuals. Rappers in massive cars dripping with diamonds rapping about crack houses."
(Offenders)

Stronger relationships can allow a more honest and forthright conversation.

"We got burgled and they took my grandfather's watch - it was irreplaceable. Don't know if anyone saw the news about the Police Inspector that got burgled while he was on holiday. They had everything - carpets, fittings, light bulbs even. Four months later he committed suicide."
(Housing Officer)

"In Arizona, they put convicts in big tents in the desert, chained together with pink clothes on."
(Staff)

"I saw that too and every 'member of the public', my family and friends said: 'It ought to be like that here - that would stop them coming back.'
(Housing Officer)

"Today has been the weirdest dialogue I've ever been in and I've been in a few. But it's been good - great to leave on a high for once."
(Offender)

"We talk about drugs, housing, employment, prison stuff all the time. There's so much more to all of us than that. It's also about building relationships and it's allowed us to be more challenging than we would have been otherwise."
(PD)

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.