

13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

### How past and present relationships effect our lives

Participants: 3 Offenders, 2 Police, 2 Prison Staff & 1 PD

#### LEARNINGS

"Did you realise there are 8500 former servicemen in prison at the moment? Look at me, I joined the army at 16 and left on 29 Jan 08. By the end of Feb 08 I was in prison and have been here since. It's only on the day of discharge that you get offered some support and it's too late then."

(Offender)

"I've had a key worker on the outside for 5yrs which my mother arranged. There's been some underlying issues that she's been trying to get me to take on for the last couple of years. This conversation has helped me to get what she's telling me."

(Offender)

"I started taking heroin at 12. I used to see my older brothers coming back with wads of money, out stealing cars and I thought it looked glamorous. I've taken drugs ever since and I've just had enough now."

(Offender)

People who are important to us now can give us a strong enough motivation to change.

Low self esteem can be formed in childhood and can be the underlying cause of destructive behaviour.

Hearing other people's stories can help us to understand ourselves.

"I've got a lovely girlfriend outside waiting for me. She's my motivation. She's at university and when I get out we're going to move away and start afresh. I've got to change for her."

(Offender)



"Now that I think about it, you're right. I realise that I'm looking to my girlfriend for constant approval and that's no good for her. She tells me that she's here waiting for me and I need to believe that's enough."

(Offender)

"It's been really helpful to me to hear what you've said about your partner being put down as a child and his low self esteem as I can see that in me. I was always told I'd be no good for anything."

(Offender)

"I've done everything I want to do. Now I want to put my family first. I want to support my kids. During this sentence I've made contact with them again and now I want to put them first."

(Offender)

"I respect what you're saying but you need to put yourself first."

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.