

14<sup>th</sup> October 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

## Getting people with different needs into one conversation together

Participants: 8 Offenders & 5 Others (Police, Prison Staff, B'mouth Council Housing Manager, PD)

### LEARNINGS

"We look at eligibility - are you a British Citizen, are you vulnerable, are you intentionally homeless, do you have local connections? On the whole, people in prison are considered to be responsible for their own actions and therefore to be intentionally homeless."  
(Council Housing Manager)

"It's my first time in prison too. I have 2 months left of a 2 year sentence. Working in prison is the first time I've worked in my life. I've got qualifications and know I need to get a job when I'm out to stop me coming back."  
(Offender)

"It's my first time in prison and I got a 4 year sentence. I lost my flat and all my possessions when I came in. It's not as bad as I thought it would be. My brother's in too so that helps."  
(Offender)

People in the group are at different stages of their life and sentence - so different things are important to them now.

"What if I'm living with my partner who has a relapse and that puts my recovery at risk so I need to leave. Does that class me as vulnerable? Am I then intentionally homeless?"  
(Offender)

"It depends. We look at it on an individual basis. We can use discretion."  
(Council Housing Manager)

"It's really useful having people like you (housing manager) coming in. As personal officers we're asked this kind of stuff all the time but don't know what goes on outside. I've learnt a lot about housing today."  
(Prison Officer)

"I've been in housing offices all through the country from Scotland to Torquay and when you go in they just look down to you."  
(Offender)

"I think you're making assumptions. I certainly wouldn't do that and I hope no-one in my team would."  
(Council Housing Manager)

"I heard from another inmate that if you come to these dialogue sessions you're put on a MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements)  
(Offender)  
"No, that's not true at all. You should never believe anything another prisoner tells you."  
(Prison Staff)  
"It's probably because this is a multi-agency approach, but we don't discuss individuals outside this room."  
(Police)

The consequences of offending go beyond serving a prison sentence in ways you don't imagine eg it affects your access to housing on the grounds of intentionality.

There are myths and stories in the prison about this group. It's important to find out the truth for yourself.



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.