

14<sup>th</sup> July 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

## Attitudes to change

Resettlement Pathway: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 6 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 1 BCHA & 1 B'mouth Council

### LEARNINGS

"There seems to be a younger generation emerging that contains an element with total disregard for other people – the use of knives, guns and mindless violence. I don't know why it is but it's frightening." (Agency)

"I don't think you can blame single mothers - maybe a lack of male role models, absent fathers not doing what they should. I try and accommodate the father of my children so he can be a part of their lives. It's really important." (Agency)

"Each generation always thinks the upcoming one is terrible. You had the rockers and the teddies, the mods, the skins – mindless violence has always been a feature throughout history. The young ones today will be saying the same about the generation to come." (Offender)

It's never too late to change.

Each generation feels the upcoming one is terrible and it was never as bad in their day.

People mature at different times, one size does not fit all.

"I think when people get to their late 20s early 30s, they have an epiphany and they change their behaviour, so suddenly everything makes sense." (Prison Staff)

"I think that's true. Before that happens it goes in one ear and out of the other." (Offender)

"You're not always aware of the side effects of drug taking, but all the scare stories don't have an effect because once you've done it you realise it's not true. To be honest, when you're young it's all about having a good time. It's just later when you're in your cell that you think about the way you have been living." (Offender)

"All these people trying to say your behaviour is down to this or that – parents blame the drug dealer, it's never their good son! It's not single mums, it's not a lack of role models – you can come up with reasons and excuses all day. You need to look at the person." (Offender)

"There are so many people with mental health problems in prison. I think we need to be psychiatrists. As prison officers we're not trained to deal with all the problems that come up." (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.