

15th Sept 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Prescribing free heroin. Madness or mad not to?

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Resettlement Pathway:

Participants: 9 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff & 1 BCHA

LEARNINGS

"It's been on the news today about the pilot project which has been giving addicts free heroin. I don't like the sound of it. What do others think?"

(Prison Staff)

"It doesn't make sense to send people to live in Boscombe to a hostel with other people who have got the same drug habit as you. It's only a matter of time before you pick up again."

(Offender)

"My probation officer is coming to see me in prison before my release. I'm chuffed to bits – it's very rare. My original ideas for where I will go have been rejected. Years ago I would have done my nut but I'm going to give it my best and make the most of what I can do."

(Offender)

Being around positive people is very important when trying to go straight.

Prescribing free heroin to hardened users could have some positive outcomes and should not be dismissed out of hand.

It's wrong to judge someone by who's written on a bit of paper. It's not the whole story.

"I find the pilot project very encouraging. No doubt it will create problems of its own but so many people are in prison related to their drug habits. It would be a great opportunity to work with someone whilst the reality of thieving and the like can be put to one side and the focus can be on becoming a member of the community."

(Agency)



"We have heard today that when people are recalled, where they have to reside is affected by the risk of re-offending. Perhaps this kind of scheme can have a real impact on all these issues. The model we have now is definitely not working. It's time to try a different approach."

(Agency)

"We began speaking about friends and how who we spend time with affects what we do. If I'm hanging around with people who are taking drugs, my own chances are reduced. It's best to be around role models. People who are doing the right things under difficult circumstances."

(Offender)

"Hearing people today, it is making me realise that when I do get released myself I will have to be very careful about what I do. One small slip can have dire consequences. Your problems don't end when you leave prison."

(Offender)

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.