

16th Dec 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Saxon

Friends, associates, services – how they help and hinder us

Participants: 10 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 2 BCHA & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"You should accept the conditions probation set you – you're on licence – It's better than being in here – At least you can go out and 'meet girls' and get on with your life. If you have to stay in a hostel, it's only for a few months and if you're doing okay, you're out of there." (Offender)

"To tell you the truth, my probation officer has been great. She's really tried to help me. It went wrong because of me, because of what I did."

(Offender)

"I've been in supported hostels in Bournemouth. When things were going well it was great there. When I relapsed it was all their fault - I thought they were useless."

(Offender)

Your own attitude affects whether you experience services as useless or useful.

Support for offenders is most successful when the offender and service provider meet halfway and work together.

"We now work closely with our residents when they relapse or have a slip to help them. We liaise with their probation so that they are not recalled. As long as they are seriously engaging with services and trying, we'll keep supporting them through it."

(Agency – housing)

The people we call friends can help us or hold us back, or worse.

"It's different for me this time. I don't have any friends. I keep myself to myself and stay out of trouble. I'm focussed on what I'm doing and need to do."

(Offender)

"My friends have known me since we were little. We're more like family. If I wanted to take a different path they'd still stay close to me. They'll always be there."

(Offender)

"I want to be out at work and have friends at work."

(Offender)

"I think I have been influenced to commit crime. I don't like offending. The thing is I'm loyal, but to the wrong people."

(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.