

16th Sep 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Are you serious about changing?

Participants: 8 Offenders & 6 Others (Prison Staff, Police, IMB, Ex-offender volunteer & PD)

LEARNINGS

"I'm a prison junkie. I'm doing bad, horrible things in here to feed my habit. I want to stop but I can't get a detox in here. I'm going to be released with a habit and I don't know what to do."
(Offender)

"Do you want to stop? How much do you want to stop? Have you made the decision that you'll go to any length to stop?"
(Ex-Offender)

"The system doesn't get hurt by that – you and your victims do."
(Police)
"Treatment wasn't right for me – it was too deep. I just need structure in my life."
(Offender)

Custody is a golden opportunity to work with people because it is a contained environment.

"I believe that you have to go into treatment and meetings. That's what worked for me. Don't get put off by the higher power thing. It doesn't have to mean 'God' in the religious sense. I made my higher power the people in the group."
(Offender)

There are prolific offenders in prison who will inevitably cause harm to the public, the community and themselves if they don't engage with the right sort of help.

Methadone maintenance and detox, recovery and release plans need active and careful co-ordination and management.

"I've never had nothing from Probation, now I'm up to sentence expiry and I was recalled for nothing last time. I'm p****ed right off. I'm ready to get released and when I do, I'm gonna run amok out there and there's nothing they can do to stop me."
(Offender)

"What's the consequence of that? Where's it gonna take you? I was like that for 20 years and the resentment always took me straight back to prison. You have to put it to one side if you're ever going to move on."
(Offender)

"There's lots set up for your release. You're one of the lucky ones. We're almost sorted on accommodation, you've got a great Probation Officer, support from Pier Project a Footprints Mentor and (X) from BournemouthThreshold Dialogue who can mentor you too. We've even got you a gym pass."
(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.