

16th June 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Think and think again

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 8 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 2 YMCA, 1 Probation

LEARNINGS

"The YMCA take people straight from prison if they're recommended to them. We drug test people when they come in and then we have random drug testing depending on your using history. We have ex-users on the staff so we can tell if someone's getting chaotic and using. We work with people to get them to stop."
(Agency)

"I had a probation officer who I was honest with. I had a couple of lapses, but I told him and he worked with me to try to keep me out of prison. I was recalled for other things, but you have to be honest."
(Offender)

"The probation officers I work with aren't sitting around thinking "right, who can I breach next?" we want to try and keep you in the community, not put you in prison. You have to work with us though."
(Agency)

Rules and boundaries can actually help you stop re-offending

"I've got nothing to come out to. I'm homeless, my relationship has broken down and have no money. If I don't get somewhere to live I'll be going out and committing offences. What choice do I have?"
(Offender)

"Yes, but you've said you won't go into hostel accommodation."
(Prison Staff)

"After hearing how the YMCA work, that they support you like that when you're living there, I would think about going there."
(Offender)

"Probation shouldn't be able to recall you without taking you back to court. Who made them the judge, jury and executioner?"
(Offender)

"The law changed in 2003 and now you serve half your sentence in prison and half in the community. The Community half is still part of your sentence and has restrictions and boundaries to try to stop you from offending."
(Agency)

"You say you should be honest, but when you have the history I have with agencies it's difficult. People say one thing to your face and another thing behind your back."
(Offender)

"Yeah, but they're there to try to help you and stop you re-offending."
(Offender)

"It's amazing how at the start of a dialogue someone can have such set ideas about something, such as going into a hostel, and after an hour and a half's conversation can completely turn around their thinking and attitude about that thing."
(Agency)

Knowledge really can be power

Talking about issues can allow you to think them through and reach a more informed decision about your options



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.