

17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

## Who's to blame?

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

### LEARNINGS

"Everybody says they have been breached on stupid things, like being late for an appointment, but they don't tell you they were late because they were out committing crimes."  
(Offender)

"I got found guilty of robbery, even though I didn't know my mate had stolen a phone. I would have pleaded guilty to assault, but because I was with the wrong people at the wrong time I've got a longer sentence."  
(Offender)

"You can't blame other people for your actions, some people blame drugs, but if you choose to take them, you should know the consequences."  
(Offender)

Listening to the wrong people can lead to problems.

"I used to blame everyone else for everything, but then I started thinking it can't be everyone else all the time, it has to be me. Now I think about it, and see if I was to blame when things go wrong, but sometimes I think about it too much. You get a lot of time to think and get some balance in prison."  
(Offender)

Sometimes you get caught in a cycle that seems hard to break.

You need to be honest about what part you played in causing problems for yourself.

"My grandad was a criminal, my dad was worse than him and me and my brothers are worse than my dad. Now my son has been sent to a young offenders institute and I'm worried that he's going to turn out worse than me."  
(Offender)

"There's lots of support out there from family and friends, as well as agencies, but sometimes your family are too close to you, they love you too much. So sometimes it's better to listen to the professionals for help. At the end of the day you have to make your own decision to change."  
(Prison Staff)

"I've had key workers since I was young and they have tried to tell me about the consequences and what would happen to me. I didn't listen to them, but looking back they were right, after all look at where I am now."  
(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.