

18th Nov 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Nobody knows all the answers

Participants: 9 Offenders & 10 others (Prison Staff, Police, BCHA, B'mouth Council & PD)

LEARNINGS

"When you're in a hostel, you don't want to go down to breakfast and sit across from someone and talk to someone when you don't know what they've done."

(Offender)

"The trouble is that being in prison these days, it's a walk in the park compared to being out on license with all the conditions."

(Offender)

"We've talked about making plans for when you're released, but then probation have their ideas for you anyway, so you put your plans to the back of your head and go with the flow."

(Offender)

It can be very powerful to learn from people that have found their own way through the system.

In this session you can learn how to raise things that are important to you in a respectful way without expecting instant answers.

"There are things in the prison that frustrate us – like when are we going to get the toaster!"

(Offender)

"That's straying off the subject. We were talking about supported housing...I don't know the details of that, you'd have to talk to wing staff... We are setting up group forums to start in December to talk about any issues."

(Governor)

"There's no housing or support out there for people that don't have drug or alcohol problems."

(Offender)

"There's the YMCA, Stonham, we're making links with B'mouth Council – so there are things for people out there."

(Prison Staff)

"If you go to the Princes Trust they have meetings every month and you get a mentor who's been where you are. They've been in the system a lot and have loads of experience."

(Offender)

"At the end of the day it's down to you. If you want help you have to go out and get it....I'm not embarrassed to ask for help, but I know some people are."

(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.