

19th Aug 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9 – 10:30am ETS Room

How do we mend relationships?

Participants: 6 Offenders & 6 Others (Prison Staff, Offender Supervisor, Police, Agency & PD)

LEARNINGS

"You have to deal with the reality of your situation. It's far from perfect if you have to work with someone who's already recalled you to prison, but you have to find a way to manage that relationship to your benefit."
(Police)

"Truth is, you always push for that little bit extra – if someone cuts you 5 minutes slack you go for 15 mins. It's human nature. I was meant to be at the Clubhouse for 3 days, then it was 2, then I made excuses."
(Offender)

"There's a crucial difference in how people engage – are you running away from something or are you going towards something else. If you're running away from drugs they'll always find you wherever you are."
(Prison Staff)

Probation are interpreting rules strictly leading people to be recalled.

Relationships are important. You have to build workable relationships with all of the agencies whatever has happened.

We can talk straight to each other in this group – challenge is helpful as well as support.

"I was 5 minutes late for my appointment, they said it was fine, but then three days later I got recalled."

"I got kicked out of my dad's on a Friday night. I went to Probation first thing on Monday but they said I was away for the weekend – who could I contact on a Friday night?"
(Offenders)



"You say you were living a normal life, that you stayed away from drugs and trouble, but you were still caught with a load of cannabis so you obviously can't have been staying that far away from it."
(Offender)

"I've heard it today, but I've heard it all before as well. I have to say that being late for a Probation appointment is absolutely pathetic. Why can't you be half an hour early? Never be late. We all know how stretched Probation are, there's really no excuse for it."
(Agency)

"I spoke with my mum about last week's session and now my brother's in trouble with her – I'm going to send her copies of these feedback sheets."
(Offender)

"Last week got me thinking. All we ever do in prison is talk about drugs and crime. This is a good place to come to get other people's opinions."
(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.