

19th May 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

You can't blag a reformed blagger

Resettlement Pathway: Accommodation / Education, Training, Employment / Mental, Physical Health /
Drugs & Alcohol / Children & Families / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Participants: 8 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 2 Police, 1 B'mouth Council & 1 Footprints Volunteer

LEARNINGS

"The majority of people in prison have problems with their accommodation"

(Offender)

"I have 50% of this prison's population on my books for accommodation"

(Prison Staff)

"What's brought you back in here or brought you into prison in the first place?"

(Agency)

"Money...stupidity...drugs... accommodation"

(Offenders)

"How do you make a positive change when people are waiting for you to fail?"

(Offender)

"You have to be honest with yourself and you have to believe in yourself. You're the only person who can make that change."

(Agency)

The support is there when you need it, it's about you being ready to access it.

The ability to listen is more powerful than the ability to speak.

"The first time I was inside the first 3 days were really tough but once I got over that prison was really easy. A while ago I was sitting in my cell chatting to a 60 year old who had been in and out of prison all his life. He said 'In 40 years it'll be you sitting here chatting to someone like this'. That really shocked me and I thought no way do I want that."

(Offender)

You've got to look after yourself before you can look after others.

"I don't want my mentor to be a middle-class posh lady because I will manipulate them to my own ends. I got my last mentor to drive me to my dealers."

(Offender)

"When you've got an ex-offender for a mentor you can't spin them off a yarn."

(Agency)

"My mother's got strict moral codes and she had to break these when she saw me sick and had to score for me. It still makes me ashamed to think about it to this day."

(Offender)

"At the end of the day there are nonces inside prison and there are nonces outside prison. You're not going to change that. You have to learn how to deal with it yourself."

(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.