

2<sup>nd</sup> December 08

## BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Saxon

### Doing what you can in the face of uncertainty

16 Participants: 10 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 2 Police, 1 BCHA, 1 B'mouth Council & 1 PD

#### LEARNINGS

"My girlfriend is expecting our baby but I still want my own accommodation because I'm too vulnerable. We have an argument, she chucks me out, calls the police and I'm back in here."

Offender

"The probation have told me that I might end up in a hostel in any one of 3 areas. I don't know anything about them and nobody can give me any information."

Offender

"I just want to get out and work. I don't want to be on benefits. I want to make something of my life. You can try can't you?"

Offender

It can be good to lighten your conscience by making amends.

No matter how motivated they are prisoners still can't always be certain about what will happen when they are released.

Independence is really important to people and supported accommodation can be a step towards it for ex-offenders.

"On the 12 step programme part of it is about making amends. Even if you're not involved in drugs you can do that. It's about clearing your own conscience so that you can get on with your life and not have anything hanging over you. That's why I'd encourage people to have offences TIC'd (taken into consideration) – not for the crime stats but for yourself."

Police



"I feel sorry for some of the things I've done. I offended for the drugs, not because I enjoyed it. I felt genuinely bad after some of the crimes I committed. I know that some people don't feel like that."

Offender

"You need to have a plan B because sometimes things don't go your way. There's an element of luck to it. Even if you're accepted into the hostel, if there isn't a vacancy when you're released there's nothing I can do about it."

BCHA

"I've stayed in supported housing before and it did help me. I need some structure and help to ease me back into society. How do I get onto the BCHA waiting list?"

Offender

"Put an app' in to see Graham Cull the Housing Officer."

BCHA

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.