

20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

## Everyone needs a plan

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

### LEARNINGS

"I'm struggling with debts and a mortgage – whilst I'm in here my debts are just getting bigger with interest piling up. I'm getting so many letters from the bank, and it usually takes a while to get an appointment set-up with Citizens Advice to respond. It's the first thing I think about when I wake up."  
(Offender)

"Most people have got some motivation to change their lives, whether it's children, partners or getting a job. When people are sleeping rough, don't have anything and can't see a way forward that's when you can end up re-offending."  
(Offender)

"I'm getting out on Thursday and think I've got things sorted out this time. I know what I've got to do to change and am feeling optimistic about the future."  
(Offender)

There aren't stupid questions. If you think you need support ask for it.

"I'm getting out in a month and need to get my housing sorted, I want a Council flat. I've been in supported housing before, but didn't have a good experience."  
(Offender)

"Getting Council housing is difficult, supported accommodation is a good first step out of prison as it should provide the support you need. Things have changed over the years and the support should meet your needs."  
(Agency)

"If it's your first time in prison, it's difficult to find the information about the courses and support available in here. When you have your induction, you're not really with it, and you don't always get the right information by listening to the other guys in here. If you're not MAPPa or PPO, there doesn't seem to be the support there."  
(Offender)

"Sometimes you just have to keep asking for the support you think you need. There aren't any stupid questions and if you don't understand something ask your personal officer. These sessions are one way we're trying to support offenders who aren't prolific and you can get a lot of good information here."  
(Prison Staff)

"I'm hoping to get a move sorted out, to be nearer my partner and her family. Together we're getting support and rehab sorted out. I've been through the system before, but this time I'm motivated to change, I'm sick of the drugs and being locked up."  
(Offender)

"It's good that you're motivated to change and feeling optimistic, but you have to prepare yourself for some knock-backs and the hard times, changing things can be difficult."  
(Agency)

If you put the effort in, you can achieve things and make changes. Anything is possible if you work at it.

Hearing peoples' stories about how they ended up in prison can help people understand and not condemn offenders.



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.