

21st Oct 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Managing expectation in prison, recovery and community

Participants: 6 Offenders & 5 Others (Prison Staff, Police, Agency & PD)

LEARNINGS

“Special Brew was made for Winston Churchill’s visit to Denmark. That’s a fact.”
(Offender)

“I don’t plan for my release in too much detail because I don’t deal with disappointment too well. I just do day by day.”
(Offender)

“You see these people in recovery sitting in cafes looking scared, using meetings as a replacement. I’d rather be doing drugs.”
(Offender)

“That’s how people cope when they’re scared, dealing with their fears about being clean and facing real life. I was like that.”
(Offender)

“When you come out of prison on a licence, you have to get your head around it sharpish! If you resent it then you’re going to be in trouble.”
(Offender)

“I’d rather be in prison than doing a community sentence. I can’t be dealing with all those rules.”
(Offender)

“When I first came out of prison I was the big man when I saw my friends - non of them had been in. I didn’t tell them about the tears when my cell door closed.... In 3 months I’d forgotten how bad it was.”
(Offender)

“Time goes slower when you have more association time. It goes quicker when I’m in my cell watching TV. There is a lack of options. That’s it more than anything else.”
(Offender)



“I want to be doing courses, vocational training. When I first came here 10 years ago you could do all sorts! There’s hardly anything now.”
(Offender)

“The prison population is so much bigger now, the budget does not provide for what is needed. That’s the bottom line.”
(Prison Staff)

“In some of these hostels the key workers are almost teenage girls. How can they relate to me and my experience? What life experience do they have?..... Don’t get me wrong, some of the staff do a great job, really helpful.”
(Offender)

Taking your licence conditions on board can enable you to be successful in the community.

Expecting too much can lead to disappointment – whether the expectations are of prison, of being on licence, of agencies or of yourself.

When it comes to recovery, one size does not fit all.

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.