

21<sup>st</sup> April 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

## Effective representation is important in life

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Accommodation / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 4 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 1 Police & 1 PD

### LEARNINGS

"I've lived in Dorset most of my life and have 2 adult children in Bournemouth yet they still want me to go back to Southampton. There's nothing but trouble for me there yet I'm having to fight to get to B'mouth even though it's the best thing for me."  
(Offender)

"Yet I'm from London, have no connections here and they're chucking money at me. Because I'm a mappa they're trying to keep me in Bournemouth."  
(Offender)

"If you have a problem you can write to your MP and they can take it up in Westminster. They still represent you even when you are in prison. I don't think you can vote though."  
(Prison Staff)

"I've never voted, even on the out."  
(Offender)

There are many different channels to represent yourself both in and out of prison.

You need to learn the skills required to be able to represent yourself and your needs.

"What gets me about this prison is that nobody backs anybody up. They do on stupid stuff but never on things that matter. The canteen's changed supplier and some prices have doubled. This would cause a riot in other prisons but nobody does anything here."  
(Offender)



Doing nothing and apathy will not change anything.

"I've stuck in app after app and gone to the prison council with issues but nothing ever gets done. I've no idea what the prison council does."  
(Offender)

"I'm preparing accommodation now for people who are being released in November. Even though a lot of the supported accommodation can't guarantee a bed until almost the last minute, I can do the groundwork and referrals to be ready."  
(Prison Staff)

"Some of the jobs in the prison seem worthless. I can only earn £7 per week and I work hard."  
(Offender)

"A lot of outside work the prisoners do is dictated by the government. I bet even the Governor has no say in it. I'm sure she'd want more practical training for the guys but it doesn't pay."  
(Prison Staff)

"If a fair wage was paid you could even put some aside for when you're out. People have tried to lobby to change the wage system."  
(PD)

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.