

23rd Sept 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Communication and responsibility

Participants: 2 Offenders, 1 Police, 2 Prison staff, 3 External Agency and 2 from PD

LEARNINGS

"How do you teach people to take responsibility? It's hard to stand back and let them make mistakes." (Agency)

"Sometimes we imposing too much structure. It doesn't make them take responsibility." (Police)

"There's 3 or 4 of us who all look out for each other, I've been pulled up by them for talking with the wrong people on the wing saying 'Don't be so stupid.' It helps me stay off drugs because if I have a use-up it's embarrassing to have to explain it to them." (Offender)

"This guy in the upstairs cell from me kept talking to himself, banging on the floor all night. He had mental health issues. I reported it and it was logged in the book but nobody did anything – then he annoyed someone and got jugged with boiling water." (Offender)

"I told the Deputy Governor about this meeting the other day."

(Offender)

"He's said he's attending next week because he's been hearing about it from prisoners." (PD)

"We don't give people enough responsibility – we nurse maid them. We're fetching toilet rolls and getting them their meals. That doesn't prepare them to take responsibility on release." (Prison staff)



"We don't get told anything about our guy's mental health and health needs – we're as much in the dark as you. Personally, I'd like to know more for everyone's safety. Apart from requesting an assessment, there's not much we can do." (Prison staff)

"There was a slip-up in convening today which was frustrating, but I've learned that you can have dialogue even with only a couple of prisoners here. It's been really valuable to go ahead and do it, even though at the start I thought we were going to have to cancel because there weren't enough prisoners." (Police)

We all take responsibility for different things. It's just more obvious when a person has a role or position.

Taking responsibility for other people can help them.

Taking too much responsibility can disable them.

In dialogue we can learn something even when there aren't many people in the room.

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.