

23rd June 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

A frustrating conversation

Resettlement Pathway: Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 8 Offenders, 3 Prison Staff, 1 Police 1 YMCA & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I'm on an IPP and don't know when I'll be released. I'm deemed as high risk so nobody will take responsibility for signing me off for release. How can I ever show that I've changed enough for my risk to be reduced."

(Offender)

"The decision to release you is not decided on risk of re-offending but the risk to the public."

(Prison Staff)

"To stay motivated I focus on the positive not the negative." (Agency)

"I'm not going to do anything until release. They're trying to get me to do courses but I'm on recall and don't have to do anything."

(Offender)

If you focus on the negative you can talk yourself into a hole.

It's difficult to be motivated about your future when you feel a victim of the system.

We've had some positive conversations recently but people still hold some deep seated resentments of the system.

"In here if you're not a mappa, a PPO or on an IPP, your offender supervisor is your personal officer. They should be seeing you once a month to do Incentives & Earned Privileges reviews and they're also responsible for your Individual Sentence Plan."

(Prison Staff)



"I've done all the courses I've had to do over the years and my score has only come down 2 points."

(Offender)

"There are static risks and dynamic risks. You can't change the static risks. You can't change the history or your offending behaviour."

(Prison Staff)

"I was transferred between prisons and they lost my file in that 30 mins."

(Offender)

"Probation said they'd sent my papers for early release but the Ministry for Justice & Parole Board said they'd never received them. Probation found them 4 weeks later."

(Offender)

"It feels like we've been talking about how frustrating the system is but it feels like the conversation this week has been really frustrating too. We've talked about so many different things but not really answered anyone's questions."

(Agency)

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.