

24th Nov 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

## I feel like the police are picking on me

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Resettlement Pathway:

Participants: 12 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 BCHA & 1 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"I get stopped by the police on a regular basis in the community. I think it's unfair. It feels like harassment."

(Offender)

"It may be unfair but if you commit offences on a regular basis then it's hardly surprising if that happens."

(BCHA)

"The way you see the police depends on where you stand. If you're involved in criminal activities then you are bound to have a negative view whereas if you are a law abiding member of the community then you see the police in an entirely different light."

(BCHA)

"I have had some negative experiences with the police but I have had experience with international police forces and the British police are probably the best. It pains me to say it but it is true."

(Offender)

Offenders stereotype police agencies in the way others stereotype offenders.

Police in this country are amongst the fairest in the world .

"I see the police as being corrupt, stitching people up. If someone gives information, the police are out with guns, scaring innocent parties."

(Offender)

"If you have a history of using weapons then it is only right that the police are able to protect themselves."

(Police)

Over time people's perceptions can change based on sustained, consistent examples of living in the right way.

"The police are very careful about how they use information. It has to be credible and reliable or it won't be touched. The information is graded as to where it has come from and if it will be acted upon. Ex partners who are disgruntled for example would not constitute a reliable source."

(Police)

"This time in prison I have really made an effort. I have done work on thinking skills, attended education. I really hope I get accepted for H.D.C. otherwise I'm concerned I will have forgotten all the things I have learned that are supposed to help me when I return to the community."

(Offender)

"Not only are these groups good for the inmates in providing knowledge of services in the community but they are instructive and informative for the guests and visitors in breaking down barriers and stereotypes. We have an example of a magistrate learning about Housing Benefits being paid for 12 weeks which was taken back to her colleagues."

(Prison Staff)

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.