

24th Feb 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Each and every one of us have to take responsibility for what we do

Participants: 7 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 Magistrate & 2 Agency

LEARNINGS

"I would rather be in prison than do a community service order if I had to wear one of those high viz jackets. They should choose the right sort of work to put you into, something you want to do."

(Offender)

"But a CSO is not an apprenticeship, it's a punishment."

(Offender)

"I got a CSO once but it was 18 months in the community having to work hard every day, so in the end I stopped bothering and came to prison for 2 months. It was the easier option."

(Offender)

"Prison is no deterrent. You've got your Play Station, TV, DVD, clothing and food. A lot of people have more in prison than they do on the outside."

(Offender)

For some people being in prison is an easier option than being on the out.

Agencies need to communicate and work together more for the resettlement of an individual after prison.

Sometimes the system seems unfair – especially when we don't know all the facts.

"I got the maximum sentence for my offence but it seems like others get half as much. The sentences seem to vary and not be fair."

(Offender)

"We have the same guidelines for sentences throughout the country. There's a starting point and then the sentence goes up or down depending on various factors."

(Magistrate)

"Suitable accommodation is one of the main issues when you come out of prison. Probation keep setting people up to fail by sending them out to bail hostels surrounded by criminals. That's no help."

(Offender)

"I'm out on Friday and I've got no idea where I'm going yet. I had the chance of my own place, my dad was going to help fund it, but probation wouldn't allow it. Now I could be released NFA. All I want is a flat and a job."

(Offender)

"Resettlement programs used to be the big thing a few years ago, but the budget was slashed and the first thing to go was the resettlement program. Now it's the outside agencies that are trying to pick up the pieces and sort out the resettlement of offenders."

(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.