

27th Jan 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Breaking free from the past is not easy

Participants: 7 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff & 2 Police

LEARNINGS

"When I leave prison, I don't want to go back to my mums. I want my own flat, I'll have a job so I can pay the rent. I've never lived alone and want a fresh start." (Offender)

"Unless you've got a months rent and deposit, landlords won't be interested. Your expectations are too high." (Housing Officer)

"I was adopted at 4, abused by my adoptive parents, in secure units from 13. I've spent 12 years behind bars. The only time I've been scared was when I was released with £40 with no-one to meet me and nowhere to go." (Offender)

"Before I came to prison, I had a good job and a place to stay, but when the CSA caught up with me I couldn't afford to live anymore and fell behind with my rent. I'm worried it will happen again when I'm released. Sometimes it seems easier to be on benefits than to work." (Offender)

If you've got a reputation for violence it's going to stick with you for quite a while.

Treatment in our early years has a huge impact on our behaviour in our adult lives.

Sometimes life doesn't seem fair. People appear to be rewarded when they don't seem to deserve it.

"I've been here a month now and I've got no idea who my personal officer or my offender manager are. I've put some apps in to see everyone and never heard anything." (Offender)

"I was in here for over a month before I knew who my personal officer was. You have to keep asking." (Offender)

"I've been a model prisoner and I've tried really hard since I've been here, yet just because of one incident I've been knocked back on my ROTL application." (Offender)

"It seems that those who do the bullying and behave badly get rewarded with the best jobs." (Offender)

"I've got my D Cat and could be going to Leyhill in 4 days." (Offender)

"Open prisons are really hard. What's the first thing you're gonna do when you get a phone call with bad news from home? You're gonna walk." (Offender)

"Because I'm a Mappa 3 they worry more about the public protection than about me. If I get a job, they'll tell my employer. If I get into a new relationship, they'll tell my partner. Because I've got a reputation, it's hard to go straight. Every time a crime is committed like mine, Police come and hassle me." (Offender)



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.