

28th Oct 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Listening to views that are different to your own

Participants: 10 Offenders & 4 Others (Prison Staff & PD)

LEARNINGS

“They’ve told me I need to go into Saxon to get methadone. I keep telling them I don’t want to go there. There’s more drugs there than anywhere else in the jail.... Even though I’m saying that I’ll probably be on there in a couple of weeks.” Offender)

“You need to get yourself on to Saxon. I hear what you are saying but if you decide you want to stay clean everyone will keep clear of you and respect that.”

(Offender)

“If you get to Saxon, you can surround yourself with other supportive prisoners like X & Y. The meetings (NA,AA,CA) are all there.”

(Prison Staff)

People in the group have views about what will help others.

When people stop listening, the dialogue can break down quite quickly.

When you listen you may end up changing your mind.

“The problem is the staff they employ here are stupid. You don’t need any qualifications to become a prison officer.”

(Offender)

“It’s not the qualifications that are important, it’s the attitude.”

(Offender)

“You need people skills but no specific qualifications then you are assessed during your training to make sure you can do the job. You start off wanting to make a difference but it’s hard to stay motivated when you get shouted at and called a f*****g **** even when you are trying to help.”

(Prison Staff)

“It’s like every profession – there are good and bad.”

(Prison Staff)

“For a session like this to work you need to listen as well as talk. If you don’t listen it’s hard for the other person to find their words. If you don’t listen you can’t learn.”

(PD)



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.