

28 April 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Knowledge is Power

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Education, Training / Finance / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 7 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 2 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 BCHA & 1 PD

LEARNINGS

"I wouldn't want to be a politician because they're all liars. Basically they promise things they never do. Nothing ever changes."

(Offender)

"We're all quite ignorant really. We should all vote because we're lucky to have the vote. If you don't vote, you can't complain when nothing changes."

(Agency)

"People may not be aware but the decision not to have those huge titan prisons was because of all the forceful lobbying by the IMB. People think they don't make a difference but they do."

(Prison Staff)

"They should pay us more so we can try and save up for when we get out. It would help with a deposit or something."

(Offender)

"But we're not here to get paid, we're here to get punished."

(Offender)

The system can make or break you.

We can know the difference between right and wrong but making the right choice can be difficult.

In order to change something, either about yourself or the system, you need to know how to.

"I know the right thing to do, I know the difference between right and wrong, but there's something implanted in my brain where I always choose the wrong decision."

(Offender)

"If I can use my experiences to help someone change their life, it will make me feel better about myself."

(Offender)



"I'm really selfish. It's not until I'm in the police cells, half way through my sentence or about to be released that I start to think about the people who care about me. I need to start thinking about how my behaviour and actions affect other people."

(Offender)

"My punishment starts when I'm released & I'm on licence. Having to look over my shoulder and think about everything I do is harder than being in prison."

(Offender)

"This is my first time in prison but I've not found it that bad, although I don't want to come back."

(Offender)

"When I was much younger, I was going down the wrong path. I was involved in the wrong crowd, committing petty crimes then I made the choice to join the military. I'm biased but it was the right choice for me. It made me. The system can either make or break you."

(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.