

3rd Mar 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

We're all shaped by our environment

Participants: 10 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police & 1 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"This is my first time in prison and I'm being released on Thursday. I thought I was going to my own place, but I've just found out I've got to go into a bail hostel. I'm terrified of getting out, I've always worked in the past and don't know anything about signing on."

(Offender)

"In a bail hostel you all get tarred with the same brush. Some of the rules are worse than in prison."

(Offender)

"When you've got a drug problem, being released back into somewhere like Boscombe can be really difficult, it's a high risk environment."

(Offender)

People can adapt to their environments, not always in a good way.

Different environments have different risks and you need to find your own way to minimise them.

Going back into the community can be scary if you don't know what the rules are before you leave prison

"I've been in here for 10 months and have never spoken to my Probation officer, I had to phone them, and when I did they didn't know anything about me. I'll only get my license conditions when I leave."

(Offender)



"I can't get a job in here, I've put in apps but haven't got anything yet. So I'm locked up most of the day."

(Offender)

"Although this is a working prison, there aren't enough jobs for everyone. Sometimes it's down to resources and staffing."

(Prison Officer)

"People put on a front in prison, they act up to a persona they don't have on the outside. Even though this is an easy prison, some of the violence in here is worse than other places. People get hurt for the stupidest of things."

(Offender)

"There is a lot of bullying that goes on inside. You don't want to report it, but sometimes you can't ignore it either. Sometimes the bullies seem to get rewarded with the good jobs."

(Offender)

"Wing staff are no longer responsible for allocating work, so they can't now give jobs to their favourites."

(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.