

30<sup>th</sup> September 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

## A question of morals and responsibilities

Participants: 2 Offenders & 10 Others (Prison Staff, Police, Friends of Guys Marsh & PD)

### LEARNINGS

"It's not just fear of reprisal. For me it goes back way before the drugs, to when I was a boy. It just wouldn't sit right with me. In my opinion drug dealers need help too."  
(Offender)

"Helping others is part of my recovery. I get loads back by helping others that are in the situation I was in."  
(Offender)

"It's a 2 way problem. You get out as much as you put in."  
(Prison Staff)

"As Friends of Guys Marsh, we want to reduce re-offending. You're part of our community and when you are released you come back into that community. We're here because we care about you. So are these agencies."  
(Agency)

It's not just our view points that are different, it's also our moral stand points.

"I'm interested in why prisoners don't take responsibility for their community. They usually shun cell thieves or certain types of offenders so why don't prisoners take responsibility and shun drug dealers. For me it's a question of morality."  
(SMT)

Prisoners have a unique role in supporting and maintaining each other's recovery.

Solutions that appear simple are not always easy to achieve in prison.

"We were discussing this a couple of weeks ago - what if someone comes to you admitting an active heroin addiction and they want a detox, what's in place?."  
(Prison Staff)

"There's nothing in place here at the moment."  
(SMT)

"Saxon wing is going to be the focus of our drug intervention programmes. The idea came from a prisoner. It'll take 6-12 months to get where we want to be. We want prisoners to take responsibility for how it works."  
(SMT)

"The problem is that 120 prisoners is too many for a drug free wing. You only need 30 guys to go to work and 10 to come back with drugs and then its f\*\*\*\*d!"  
(Offender)  
"You said last week that you had a group of 3 or 4 of you in the wing that support each other. That's creating a seed -something positive. Imagine if you had 20 like that on a wing, it could work."  
(Prison Officer)



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.