

30 June 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 4 Offenders, 3 Prison Staff, 1 Police, 1 B'mouth Council, 1 YMCA, 1 BCHA, 1 Footprints

LEARNINGS

"They got my release date wrong. I thought I was getting out in August and now they're telling me November. I think f**k it, I may as well stay in until February now because at least then I'll be free". I never knew they could do that."
(Offender)

"Everyone is a prisoner of someone or something, whether it's the system, or your boss or someone in your personal life."
(Agency)

"Last time I was out I was clean, in a job and in a relationship. I found I wasn't moving forward though and I couldn't work out how to. I didn't talk to anyone and ended up using again."
(Offender)

Knowing who you can turn to can help you to break the cycle.

"Someone is here today from BCHA. What about going into Dorset Lodge in November? They can take you even if you're on tag. They can help and support you while you're on license and then help you with move on accommodation."
(Agency)

"If they do that I'd go for release in November. I never knew they could do that."
(Offender)

Systems exist. Knowing how to work within them can bring about change.

"Ticking boxes doesn't allow you to look at the person. Sometimes all you have is a paper file on someone, but actually sitting down and talking to them allows you to take a more person centred approach."
(Agency)

"Ticking boxes doesn't give the true picture. Sometimes it's about 'distance travelled' by a person. For example my staff often get disheartened by people going back to prison, but if they've managed to stay out for longer than they stayed out the last time that's an improvement."
(Agency)

Change is still change whether it's big or small.

"We all have targets to meet and boxes to be ticked. I bet sitting here in this dialogue is ticking someone's box somewhere."
(Agency)



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.