

31st March 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

Different things for different people

Participants: 5 Offenders, 1 Prison Staff, 1 Police & 1 Agency

LEARNINGS

"Why is it that sex offenders seem to get all this special treatment? They've got their own cushy prison, they seem to get what they want and yet they've committed these horrible crimes against women and little kids. They should be treated like us." (Offender)

"Even in prison there are law abiding citizens. I thought that in prison everyone would get on with everyone else, but nobody likes sex offenders or grasses." (Offender)

"What would be the consequences of putting everyone together? People would soon find out what they were in for and it would lead to bullying, violence or even death. I have to treat everyone the same, whatever I feel, I have to be professional." (Prison Staff)

Community sentences can work for some people but it depends on the individual.

All offenders have to be treated equally by professionals and their human rights protected however distasteful the crime.

"I think community service is a good idea for low level offences, like drink driving. Putting something back into the community and working is better than coming into prison." (Offender)



There are many agencies working together to accommodate offenders on release into appropriate accommodation.

"I think it's humiliating to be publicly seen as a criminal." (Offender)

"Sometimes those community sentences drag out over months. I'd rather come to prison and serve a short sentence and get it over with." (Offender)

"I've got an adult son and daughter in Bournemouth and they're the only people who are supporting me. I used to live in Bournemouth but because my offence was in Southampton I've been told that I have to go back there on my release. There's nothing but trouble there for me." (Offender)

"If you are on probation we can probably accommodate you in Bournemouth. Your probation officer can refer you into Dorset Gateway. It's certainly not impossible for you to return to Bournemouth." (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.