

4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

## How to break the cycle of alcohol and violence

Participants: 4 Offenders & 6 Others (Police, Prison Staff, Community Housing Agencies & PD)

### LEARNINGS

"I like the adrenaline rush of being involved in a fight.....its the world I live in."

(Offender)

"We'll talk all rationally about it in here but when we get back to the wing we'll be saying 'can't wait to get out and get smashed'."

(Offender)

"I was probably the same as you when I was younger. Having a family made a big difference. If I hadn't joined the military I might have ended up in the same position as you."

(Prison Staff)

You can make supported housing work for you if you prepare and engage.

"Alcohol is the underlying cause of my fighting and why I'm here."

(Offender)

"Often the focus of agency attention is on drugs - because it's illegal - but so much police time and fighting and antisocial behaviour is caused by alcohol."

(Police)

Alcohol frequently causes more social problems than drugs

"I'm up for my second parole and I've been told I stand a better chance if I'm in a hostel.... What's it going to be like?... Will I be able to have ladies in my room?"

(Offender)

"It depends on the hostel. At YMCA you can have guests in your room up to 11pm. You need to talk to staff about your needs and come to an arrangement. My staff are all experienced people who will understand where you are coming from and want to help."

(YMCA)

"Seeing lots of guys come through Dorset Lodge, the ones who succeed are those who are prepared to take on the rules and have some structure. You need to see it as 6 months in the context of the rest of your life."

(BCHA)

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.

