

5th August 2008

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9.00 – 10.30am ETS Room

The system? Ourselves? What needs to change?

Participants: 8 Offenders & 5 Others (Prison Staff, Housing Officer, Offender Supervisor & PD)

LEARNINGS

"There's nothing wrong with moaning. We all love a good moan-up – it happens in every jail I've been in. When I was at this session in Dorchester we had Probation and IDTS in – no one was having a go at them."

"You could moan about prison forever and ever."

(Offenders)

"I got my licence conditions two weeks before release. I thought: 'that's ok'. Then at reception I get this whole load of new conditions – I couldn't associate with my kid and my best friend. It was impossible to keep to that."

(Offender)

"Sorry is good. Sorry takes all the power out of a grievance. If I've got the hump with someone and they come up and genuinely apologise – that's it for me, it's done, no more problem, time to move on. That's something I've learned recently."

(Offender)

Getting things off your chest (having a moan-up) can be really helpful if you don't get stuck in it.

You get to a point in your life, when you want to change - perhaps you reach a certain age or start to recognise something about yourself.

Different approaches to personal change work for different people.

"Cognitive Behavioural Therapy doesn't work for addiction by itself. It's about changing the way you think, where drugs are more emotional than that – they're about changing the way you feel inside. Everyone uses to cover up their feelings – you've got to have both."

(Offender)

"I disagree, every counsellor has said that to me too, but I just enjoyed using."

(Offender)

"I'm in my thirties now. I've managed to keep myself clean in prison this time just by narrowing my vision – not trying to know everyone's business on the wing like I used to."

(Offender)

"I just find drugs and committing crime boring now – I'm not interested."

(Offender)

"I've been in and out of prison for years, getting on and doing courses to tick the boxes. This time I'm serious about it. I've used the courses to get what I need because I want to change. I'm scared of what might happen if I don't – my last offence was me getting violent after 10 days on crack."

) Offender)

"Because of what we talked about last week, I realised how important the NA and CA meetings are to you. I spoke to (departmental head) and it's going to be re-started. It won't be immediate, but something has already happened as a result of these conversations."

(Housing 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.