

7<sup>th</sup> October 2008

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am ETS Room

New group.....new start!!!

Participants: 7 Offenders & 6 Others (Prison Staff, Police, BCHA & PD)

LEARNINGS

"I didn't realise the consequences of what I did. I've worked for 25 years and have 2 houses, my bank accounts have been frozen and I can't pay the mortgages. I face re-possession and if I lose my houses, I get out to nothing."  
(Offender)

"I know that you're working with 'CAB', but now I'm aware I can get on the case with you.....that's what frustrates me, there is the help but the guys don't always know about it."  
(Prison Housing Officer)

"This information is given in induction when guys first arrive. The thing is, some of them are in shock and their heads aren't in the right place to take in the info.....especially first timers."  
(Prison Officer)

We are all part of the system and have to do our best within it.

"I'm trying to put in place support for my release - BAT, DIP and floating support - I just want to be able to walk the streets without being harassed by the police.....because I have a record I feel like I am targeted."  
(Offender)

We can't change others, only our own perceptions. If we practise doing this we can change outcomes to be more positive.

We all have restrictions on our lives, in varying degrees, whether in prison or not.

"I find that if I challenge my past perceptions and approach then I respond differently and the outcome is often different. I cannot change anyone else, only myself. Perhaps if you took that approach with the Police things may be different too."  
(Agency)

"I've been inside for 2 years. I have 5 months left and have only just got my sentence plan - they want me to do 6 courses, then when I'm released I'll be on conditions.....I refuse to do a curfew, I would rather be in prison than to have that."  
(Offender)

"Don't you think that's cutting off your nose to spite your face."  
(Housing Officer)

"Remember that when you're released you are still serving part of your sentence in the community so conditions aren't really unjust."  
(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.