

9<sup>th</sup> June 2009

# BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns  
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMP GUYS MARSH

Tuesdays 9–10:30am Chapel

## Making your life worthwhile

Resettlement Pathway: Employment / Attitudes, Thinking & Behaviour

Participants: 6 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff & 1 B'mouth Council

### LEARNINGS

"In New Zealand they have a different way of dealing with offending. When you're sentenced you only spend weekends in prison, except for the most serious crimes, and you do community service in the week. Their re-offending rates are lower than ours."

(Offender)

"There should be a structured approach to release. 3 months lead up to where they know what their licence conditions are and what they need to do in order not to be recalled would be better. At the moment they get their licence a few days before they're released." (Prison Staff)

"One time I'd been given my licence conditions just before I left prison. I didn't look at them properly so I was reading them sitting in a pub having a pint when I got out. Then I read that one of the conditions was that I wasn't to drink alcohol in licensed premises." (Offender)

Some systems badly need changing because they seem to support re-offending.

Change is often a good thing, even if you can't see it at first.

"Probation have too much power and they think they have power over other agencies."

(Offender)

"They breach you for little things. The system where you got a warning, a written warning and then you were breached worked better."

(Offender)

"On previous sentences I haven't had to deal with probation, but I do this time and I'm s\*\*\*ting myself about what's going to happen when I get out."

(Offender)



Finding something you have a passion for and doing it can give your life meaning.

"I was in a hostel that was really good. They gave you something to do every day. I thought it was a bit strange at first, but then I realised how good it was to keep occupied."

(Offender)

"Can you imagine having a passion and being able to live off of it? You're really lucky if you're able to do that with your life."

(Offender)

"If I could be anywhere I'd like to be working in a village in Africa, helping the people out there."

(Prison Staff)

"Now you've made me feel really selfish. When I gave my answer, all I was thinking about was myself."

(Offender)

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.