

5th Nov 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMYOI PORTLAND

What's going on?

Thursdays 2.15pm – 3.45pm

Resettlement Pathway: Accom / Education, Training, Employment / Attitudes, Thinking, Behaviour

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

LEARNINGS

"I want to see someone in here that can actually make decisions and make changes. Someone like the Governor, or probation or an MP."

(Offender)

"All Probation have got is what's written about you on a piece of paper and that might have been written two years ago and then they make their decision on what to do with you based on that."

(Offender)

"When I get out of here I want to go and live with my family. Why can't I live with my family? When I live with my family I don't re-offend, I've proved that and I don't want to go into a hostel."

(Offender)

Everybody had prejudices, it's what you do as a consequence of them that matters.

Probation can be part of the problem and if you work with them they can be part of the solution.

Every system has flaws. Finding your way round them and then changing them is difficult.

"Since I've been in here my OASIS has dropped from high to medium, is that a good thing?"

(Offender)

"It means you've done the things that were put on your sentence plan, done the courses and that you've changed. That's a good thing."

(Prison Officer)

"I haven't even seen my sentence plan."

(Offender)



"Last time I went out Probation put me in a hostel, that's just setting me up to fail...the hostel was full of sex offenders. How am I supposed to sit in the lounge with people like that, eat my food in the same room as people like that?"

(Offender)

"Probation don't care about us. They go home at night and have their tea or whatever. They sleep well, they don't care. What qualifications do you need to have to be a probation worker anyway?"

(Offender)

"Probation officers have to have a degree, it can be in anything but then they have to do another year's course to become a probation officer. They like someone with life experience and most of them are older with kids."

(Prison Staff)

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.