

8th Oct 2009

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMYOI PORTLAND

Only the beginning

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

Thursdays 2.15pm – 3.45pm

Participants: 6 Offenders, 2 Prison Staff, 4 B'mouth Council

LEARNINGS

"I'm going to be released into a Weymouth hostel, but I'm still going to be travelling back to Bournemouth every day because that's where my friends and family are. It's going to cost me £15 a day and I'm worried about getting back for my 11pm curfew."

(Offender)

"I've found that when I've got a job organised for when I'm released I'm more able to stay out of trouble."

(Offender)

"I find it more difficult in Portland than I do in adult prison. Guys Marsh is the best prison I've ever been to. It's easier there as it's not all about egos."

(Offender)

When you're moved out of the area you live in how easy is it to resettle and rehabilitate?

Understanding that you have choices and that your behaviour has consequences can help you to make better decisions.

Prisoners sometimes think that life on the out is easy, but that's when life can be really difficult.

"Can you get me an application form for Sunseeker?"... "I'd like to know how to get into motor mechanics"... "I want to take up boxing again."

(Offenders)

"We have a day in the 6 weeks before prisoners leave where we look at things like job applications, what money they can access etc."

(Prison Officer)



"When I was into boxing I found I didn't get into any trouble for 2 years. I didn't feel any aggression which surprised me as I have anger management problems. When I was arrested again after all that time even the police officers were surprised to see me back."

(Offender)

"Whenever I go into Bournemouth in the evenings I always get into fights...it's just what happens."

(Offender)

"You have the choice to walk away...it's difficult and sometimes you can't do it but it's your choice."

(Offender)

"I'm getting an ASBO that won't allow me to get drunk in Dorset. How will that work? I'm not going to be able to do that."

(Offender)

"You need to talk to your solicitor about that and if that's what it says you need to get it changed. It's more likely to say "not allowed to be intoxicated in a public place in Dorset", so you can still drink at home but you can't go out if you've had a drink."

(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.