

31st Mar 2011

POOLE THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: POOLE

Thursdays 3pm – 5pm United Reform Church

Is the benefits system working?

Participants: 9 Clients, 1 Police & 1 Routes to Roots

LEARNINGS

"My benefits have been basically halved. I am now struggling to keep my head above water."

(Client)

"I have survived on a £98 crisis loan for 6 weeks with no other money coming in. I am now in debt."

(Client)

"The job centre don't think of you as a person, it is so impersonal. No one seems to know what is happening. There is no one to speak to there, all the advice is over the phone."

(Client)

There is no such thing as a free lunch

"I resent working for my benefits. I would feel like a criminal on community service."

(Client)



All of us dependent on the public purse will have to tighten our belts

"Why do you think other people should pay for you to live without you contributing at all?"

(Agency)

"We could form a job club. Support each other. We could massively increase our service by helping each other. I'm up for it."

(Client)

"We've got a computer and I'm sure I could get some papers. I'll speak to the job centre."

(Agency)

"You say you want to work with horses and that option isn't open to you. We all have to do things we don't particularly want to. You can't expect to only do a job that makes you happy. That may come but a job you are capable of should be your first goal."

(Agency)

Get used to working for your benefits

Poole Threshold Dialogue brings Poole ex-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.