

5th Nov 2010

BOURNEMOUTH THRESHOLD DIALOGUE

Where everyone learns
but nobody teaches

PRISON DIALOGUE: HMYOI PORTLAND

What's going on?

Thursdays 2.15pm – 3.45pm

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

"Last time I went out Probation put me in a hostel, that's just setting me up to fail... The hostel was full of nonces, there was a 58 year old guy in there for bugging a kid, how am I supposed to sit in the lounge with someone like that, eat my food in the same room as someone like that."

(Offender)



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

"When I get out of here I want to go and live with my family. Why cant 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)

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

(Prison Officer)

"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 Staff)

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

(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.