

PRISON DIALOGUE LIMITED

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2009

The trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2009.

DIRECTORS DURING THE YEAR

R Forbes, N Jones and C J Marks served as directors for the entire year.

The Trustees and management team talked monthly on the phone and met twice during the year, for the AGM and review, and at a half-year review meeting. Members were invited to the meetings. The AGM was held on 18th November 2009.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND REVIEW OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

This year Prison Dialogue's direct engagement with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) appears more relevant than ever. Integrated offender management is now a key driver within the CJS and for the past 16 years PD has been developing an expertise in creating environments and providing the tools for participants to build relationships and understanding with the potential to humanise and integrate working practice. If the CJS want an integrated system - one that really works - it will come by relationship building, and PD is now well placed with skills and experience to assist this process.

Success for Prison Dialogue can be measured by whether stakeholders see a relevance in being involved and this year we feel this is more visible than ever. It is highlighted in particular by the Bournemouth Threshold Dialogue's (BTD) successful hand-over to local agencies - 'It's theirs, not ours'- and now being run by the local agencies themselves, instead of PD. This provides the environment for agencies to work more in partnership with each other and for the 'day job' to be more joined up and effective at no additional cost.

The Bournemouth and now Dorset Threshold Dialogue:

Threshold Dialogue provides a weekly forum for all participants to explore the challenges of resettlement for offenders. Following the Line of Sight approach, it tracks the offenders journey from prison cell to resettlement in the community, and creates a continuous series of dialogues to bring the offender into close relationship with the agencies who can provide specific help in relation to dependence on drugs, alcohol, housing, income and general health. Involvement can positively impact on offending behaviour, through improved understanding about available services, change in attitude through support and challenge and better engagement with those services. It also provides a powerful feedback opportunity for agency staff to hear first-hand the successes and failures in the service they seek to provide.

Special mention must go to Jane Ball, our Co-ordinator, who has worked tirelessly visiting Dorset to successfully hand-over the running of Threshold Dialogue to the local agencies; and to Peter, our Director, who has held an oversight of the structures necessary – including the Governance Board and Operations Group – to allow this cross-agency intervention to flourish.

We continue to support the initiative at all levels, providing facilitation training and supervision, cross-agency co-ordination and developmental advice overall. At present 5 weekly dialogue sessions are taking place for Dorset offenders and staff from agencies, facilitated and convened by trained staff from these agencies. 3 sessions are held in prisons - HMP Dorchester, HMP Guy's Marsh and HMYOI Portland - enabling agency staff to engage with offenders while they are stable and available. 2 are held in the community – 1 is open to all, held at BCHA, St Paul's Direct Access Hostel, so that people who are homeless or actively using drugs etc can engage services; the other is for people who are stable, held at BCHA Dorset Lodge. A third community dialogue is starting in Nov '09 in Poole.

We are encouraged by the relationship with the new Integrated Offender Management Unit (Bournemouth and Poole). They plan to use Threshold Dialogue to engage with their target offender group and staff are training as threshold dialogue facilitators.

Our Dorset Threshold Dialogue (DTD) Multi-agency Governance Board is substantial with senior members from Dorset Police and Probation; Stronger and Safer Communities Bournemouth Council; and Governors from HMP Dorchester and Guys Marsh, and HMYOI Portland and PD. It's significant that Steve Holland Gov. of HMYOI Portland has joined, because the pilot Threshold Dialogue began at HMP Dorchester when he was governor there in 2005. The Operations Group is also represented by all the above agencies along with BCHA, Bournemouth DAAT and CRI. Other agencies that participate in the dialogue include YMCA, CVS and Magistrates Courts.

The Facilitation Team is currently made up of 16 members of staff from across these agencies and a further 5 have a convening role. PD has run 2 facilitation trainings during the year. We have received funding from the Bournemouth Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (BCDRP) as well as Bournemouth Council SSC to train and supervise facilitators over the past year, and we have just received repeat funding from BCDRP to run a third training running into 2010.

Other Prison Work:

Beyond our threshold dialogue prison work, we have a growing relationship with G4S. This has included working at HMP Rye Hill with the Director and her leadership team, as well as developing and piloting officers training courses with innovative work on better establishing relationships on the prisoner/staff interface. This humanising of the prison culture is a focus the charity has had since we began in 1993. We are also involved with the Director at HMP & YOI Parc, South Wales, looking at a whole system intervention. This is a new relationship and will draw on the successful Prison Turnaround work undertaken at HMP Dorchester. Jerry Petherick, Director of Offender Management for G4S continues to call on PD for leadership development input for himself and his Management Team.

Massachusetts Department of Correction:

Peter, our Director, continues to talk regularly with Commissioner Harold Clarke (now American Correctional Association President) and during the year Jane and Peter travelled to the US for a week to run dialogue and leadership development sessions with Harold, his Deputies and his extended senior leadership team. Major budget cuts in the US have meant follow-up visits are on hold.

Funding:

Our funding is split between commissioned contracts (as with G4S) and grant funding. This grant funding can then be split between statutory grant funding addressing a specific need (as with the CDRP funding) and charitable funding. We have long term relationships with the Tudor and the Mulberry Trusts and we feel they are now really seeing the fruits of their investments born out in our endeavours. We are preparing funding applications to enable the replication of DTD in The Midlands to further strengthen our case for a national scheme. If we are successful, we will expand the staffing of PD to manage the agency engagement locally and nationally, and the additional facilitator, operations and governance training and development.

Staffing and Trustees:

We currently have a small staff team of Peter Garrett (Director) and Jane Ball (Co-ordinator) and Catherine Livingston (Office Manager). As can be seen from the report they have achieved a huge amount with minimal resources. Many thanks to Catherine for also taking on the Company Secretary role. Neil Jones and Ronnie Forbes joined as trustees a year ago and they have been hugely supportive and have made important contributions to clarify the purpose and strategic thinking of the charity. We have met with the management team twice during the year as well as holding regular conference calls to progress our thinking. This is also a chance to thank all the agencies and many individuals involved in PD's work over the past year who have wholeheartedly embraced the dialogue work in its many forms and are successfully taking the work forward.

The Future:

We are hugely encouraged by the progress of the Threshold Dialogue and our other prison work. PD are looking to replicate the Threshold Dialogue elsewhere in the UK and to begin this process we have arranged to gather a significant number of our stakeholders in mid-November to help us think through how best to go about this. The Trustees and Management Team are also committed to look more closely at clarifying the Charity's purpose and seeing how this may impact on where and how we channel our endeavours.

Chris Marks, Trustee