

"WHEN YOU FIGHT WITH MONSTERS,
MAKE SURE
THAT YOU DON'T
BECOME A
MONSTER
YOURSELF."



When we fight monsters such as an unfair society, uncaring aspects of an institution or perhaps a cruel family, it is possible that in doing so we can become monstrous ourselves in the process. We can end up involved with some of the awful things we see going on around us, for instance, in this prison community, such as bullying, scapegoating, shouting and not listening etc. etc.

The only real antidote to monster creation is honest and open communication.

Ideally open communication, (dialogue) should be as natural and essential as breathing. Unfortunately though I think it is a skill we need to re-learn.

There will be dialogue group meetings for "D" wing in the Chapel group room on Tuesdays from 9.30 to 11.00, starting in July. There will be no agenda, it won't be making any decisions, there could be anger expressed and uncomfortable silences. What there will not be is any physical violence. The skills of useful dialogue and co-operation will take some time to re-develop and will require a commitment to the group over many weeks. We will review the groups progress after three months. Membership will be between fifteen and thirty persons, it will include at least two officers, two volunteers, a senior staff representative, Barry from the chapel and myself to guide proceedings.

Given the chance most monsters turn out to be not half as bad as they have been painted.

See me before the 31st. May if you are interested.

Dave Parsons