

What's going on around here?

'It's like 'do you want to fit in here?' If so, then it's a nice friendly place to be; if not, then it's like 'if you want to fight us, then we'll fight you back.'

'Communication in Dorchester isn't all good, it's only brilliant because we deal with prisoners without challenging them; 'good' can mean complacent.....'

'Good communication needs structure and a good mix of humour, experience and being explicit and up-front'

'We need to be challenging staff, lots of staff aren't involved in resettlement at the moment, they think it's a waste of time. It's like, 'take the work away from us so we can get on with running the landings'



'It's non-stop all day long, just to get the basics done'

'This is our prison, we're the ones who stay here and try to make things work; Governors just come and go'

'I talk with prisoners on a daily basis, I will introduce myself to new prisoners and do let prisoners use my Christian name – this affects me and my relationships; prisoners will confide in me more, work is less stressful.'

'There's a constant danger of our best staff leaving because of what they have to deal with on a daily basis'

'Staff are really happy here, they have to work to get here in the first place and once they arrive they don't want to leave'

HMP DORCHESTER

'Managers here keep their doors open now, they're happy for you to go in – it goes right through the system'

'It's important to show emotion and to be able to talk to prisoners without holding any grudges – I'm not here to punish them, coming to prison is the punishment. It's also really important to be able to draw the distinction between being friendly and being friends'

'POs go to SMT meetings but they don't know what's going on on the ground; the SOs know and don't have time to feedback'

These are just a few of the things we've heard people say in our conversations with officers and other staff at HMP Dorchester. If you don't think *your* voice has been heard, contact Bob Jennings or Stuart Blair