

# Prison Threshold Dialogue (10) Cycle 3 on 11th December 07

*4 Prisoners, 1 Prison Officer and 1 from PD participated in the dialogue*

"I was given opportunities by people like Probation and I took them. I stay straight and good for months but then I screw it up. It's a pattern with me, it's happened about 3 times in a row. Now I think they've just given up on me."  
(Offender)

*"The system is moving in the right direction. Things like OASys are making staff and prisoners focus down on where the individual really needs the help, to do the work. It's not perfect by a long way but it's a start."* (Staff)

"I met a Probation Officer coming up to meet a client. Now I've got 12 people in one place where I know where they are at all times. She told me she had 74 people on active supervision on her caseload. I said to her: 'I don't know how you manage it.' She said: 'I just switch off at 5.30 and go home. It's the only way.'" (Prison Officer)

"I still think too much money is put into auditors, standards and getting the numbers. All those things cost a lot of money. We should be spending that money on the frontline with you guys which is where the work ought to be." (Staff)

"I want a flat in London like I used to have. I want to get back into my old panel-beating job." (Offender)



"Your problem is, you need to stop taking drugs. Simple."  
(Offender)

"I had my OASys score done. He said 50 of it was unchangeable, but I've tried to work on the rest. I've got my CALM course to do and then I'm done. But I've put the footwork in, I've done all the courses in education – to the point where I can't do any more, so I've asked around all these places and managed to get on a degree course through Open University. I've written letters to charities and got funding for tutorial fees." (Offender)

"You're a great example, because when you were here 18 months back you were a right mardy sort – now look at you. You've got your head on, you're achieving things for yourself. I wish everyone could be like that."  
(Prison Officer)

"Honestly, I wish I'd had a longer sentence earlier. I've wasted so much time bouncing in and out and not getting settled. When they said 4 years I had to get my head down."  
(Offender)

**The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester**