

Prison Threshold Dialogue (10) Cycle 2 on 11th September 07

8 Prisoners, 1 Governor, 1 Senior Probation Officer and 1 Prison Officer participated in the dialogue

'How do you feel about being in open dialogue with uniformed Police Officers?' (Staff)

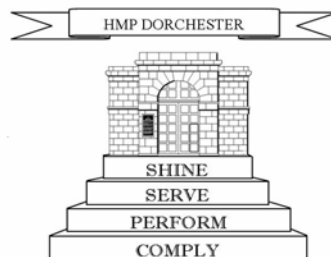
"I get wound up by being stopped all the time. I didn't want to come in here today because I thought meeting Bournemouth Police would put me on your radar."
(Offender)

"I'm used to being in an interview room with the Police trying to trip me up. I've never had a conversation with the Police where you haven't been either nicking me or checking up on me."
(Offender)

"You're in prison you doughnut, you're already on their radar." (Offender)

"Crime of this type, burglary, street robbery etc. has been falling since 2003. There's been a big turnaround in that we realised we had to start engaging with the real issues rather than just doing as we've always done and banging people up. If we help people appropriately we can prevent crime. That's been largely the success of the Pier Project in Bournemouth." (Police)

Theme: Police Session



"We don't hassle people for the sake of it. If you're just out of prison you may well get more attention, but it doesn't keep on forever. If you're doing well for yourself, the pressure goes away eventually – we've got limited resources and better things to do than stopping genuine recovering addicts in the street all the time."
(Police)

'It's been all right. We're different sides of the fence, probably always will be. But it's been a good conversation and I feel relaxed. I'm not used to having a conversation with a Police Officer and being relaxed about it.'
(Offender)

"Funny, when you started out with (Pier) everyone called it 'The Grasses Project' and wouldn't touch it. It's changed now."
(Offender)

'Great session, thank you everyone, much appreciated.'
(Staff)

"We were feeling our way to start with because we were the first in the country to take this kind of approach. It takes a while and some personal successes to build up trust. When you help people turn their lives around and some end up on the frontline helping others of you get back on your feet it puts out a powerful message."
(Police)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 18th September @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester