

Prison Threshold Dialogue (3) Cycle 1 on 12 February 08

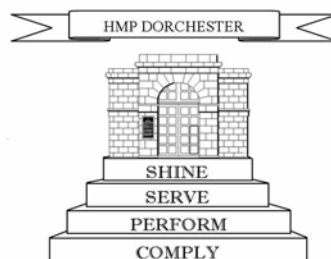
13 Prisoners, 1 Prison officer, 1 IDTS Nurse, 1 Carats Team Manager, 1 SDP Manager, 2 from Cocaine Anonymous and 1 from PD participated in the dialogue

"If I come to see you ready to clean up and needing a methadone referral, DIP puts me on a list tells me there's a six week wait. 6 weeks is no good to me, I hardly know where I'm going to be in the 48 hours, let alone 2 weeks. I could be dead by tomorrow. It's not just me I've heard it from lots of people. In crime terms, any of us could do a lot of damage in six weeks. DIP needs to speed up scripts." (Offender)

"But it's crazy that we get faster access to drug detox and maintenance in prison. That's like an incentive to commit crime. Do something small, get remanded for a few weeks, get a script ready for when you're out. No wonder prison's are overcrowded." (Offender)

"We've always had a good relationship with the Drug Strategy department here. It's inevitable that security clearance takes a bit of time. Yes, we'd always like bigger numbers each week – that's partly why we've come in today." (CA)

Theme: Drug Intervention Special



"Our hands are tied because we're only the referring agency. I wish we could click our fingers and be able to sort out meth scripts but we can only refer you on to (prescribing clinic) and they have a big waiting list. It's very lucky if you manage to jump someone on there at short notice. The DIP Team gets all the blame from the service users, but we can't produce miracles. It's got more to do with lack of resourcing elsewhere." (DIP)

"No one's reminding us that groups are on. Then if you do find out, it's too late to arrange to get to the meeting room. People need the help in here – you could get loads more in if there was a rep for each wing. Some in here have never even heard of 12 Step. They're addicts who don't know there's a different way to live. You can put posters up but people don't always read them or perhaps they can't read." (Offender)

"I just want to remind everyone that there are three 12 Step groups coming into this prison, not just Cocaine Anonymous – there's also Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous." (Carats)

"How come some people get fast-tracked into treatment? I hear that for prolifics – they seem to get funding all the time. Perhaps we should go and commit some more serious crimes then we might get some help. I'm 'low risk' apparently so I don't get a look-in." (Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 19th February @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester