

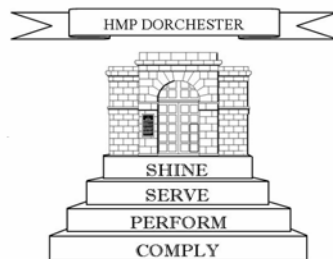
Prison Threshold Dialogue (2) Cycle 3 on 16 October 07

10 Prisoners, 1 Carats Team Leader, 1 IDTS Lead Nurse, 1 Prison Officer and 1 from Prison Dialogue participated in the dialogue

"I do a bit of this and that. Not the things they try and get me for – or rather DO get me for. They claimed I'd stashed 9 ounces of heroin in the top floor of our apartment block. I hadn't but what are you gonna say?" (Offender)

"Vodka's bad for me too. When I drink I get drunk usually, but when I drink vodka I get dangerous. I hit someone last time." (Offender)

"They called me in to be charged on something that was done four months ago. Can't they see I'm doing ok now? One day I've got Police saying I'm looking good and congratulating me on doing well, then two days later I'm getting arrested on this old charge." (Offender)



"I get in trouble on vodka – it's like Red Bull, gives you wings – I have a couple of measures, then I'm off on a mission. My criminal mind has been storing things away without me knowing it – like being on the top deck of a bus on the way back from work and seeing over the fence into someone's garden where they've left a mountain bike unlocked. I know that opportunity's there and I'll go back and take it." (Offender)

"I've stolen off friends before, I've stolen off my family. I feel bad then the drugs take the bad feeling away. Then I need more drugs so I steal some more. It's ****ed up." (Offender)



"Have you ever talked with your family about stealing from them?" (Prison Officer)

"I don't know where you're coming from – if it's 4 months down the line and they link it with you then of course they'll do you for it. They don't care whether you've turned the corner now, that's not how the law works. If you're serious about changing you've got to clean your sheet with the police or you'll always be looking over your shoulder." (Probation Officer)

"How can I when I'm still using? I had my chances, but I think they gave up on me a long time ago. I stay away now. I feel like enough of a s*** as it is." (Offender)

"I've been this way since I was a kid – used to cause my dad no end of trouble in his job. I started off causing mischief, then the mischief turned to mayhem then it just got worse from there. I can't blame my background- I come from a good family." (Offender)

"I want out of here. It's ok but there's not enough to do and it's a lot of bang p. If there was more jobs and courses it'd be great." (Offender)

"Thanks everyone." (Offender)

"Are we getting paid for this?" (Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 23 October @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester