

Prison Threshold Dialogue (2) Cycle 2 on 17th July 07

7 Prisoners, 1 Prison Officer and 1 from Prison Dialogue participated in the dialogue

'I have my bottle of wine of a night. Perhaps I've got an alcohol problem, who's to say – I can guarantee I won't be out there breaking into houses though.' (Staff)

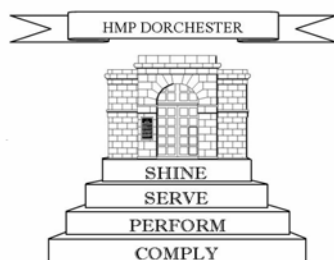
'So many people here in on alcohol related offences. I start thinking it's not the drug, it's the user – it's us. You can stop, I can't. If I have a bottle of wine it ends up in a vodka binge and I wake up in a police cell.' (Offender)

'I hate methadone. It's evil stuff, gets in your bones. The withdrawal is so much worse than heroin.' (Offender)

“Heroin is the ultimate bird-killer.”
(Offender)

“It stops everything. It even makes prison go away. I can be off drugs and feeling uncomfortable around people and then I take some and I'm more relaxed and confident, I can talk with Officers and everything. Then later I'm lying on my bunk and I'm at home on my settee just nodding off with the paper – I'm actually outside prison, I'm free.” (Offender)

Theme: Why drugs?



‘Everyone’s got something to lose. All of us, even people in prison.’
(Offender)

“Perhaps I’m being naïve. I haven’t been in one of these sessions before. Don’t you think that the drugs causing you so much misery, causing society so much aggro, affecting your whole life like this, you still have a choice don’t you? Staying off drugs might be hard but we all have to do difficult things in life.” (Staff)

'It's been more open than I was expecting – in a good way – very interesting.' (Staff)

“Miss, I can’t explain it. It doesn’t follow any reason. Like I’m doing really well in prison. I’ve been off drugs for months and months, all my MDT’s are clean, I’ve got a good job as an orderly, everyone’s helping me and giving me the encouragement. Then one day I go and have a smoke. That’s it, I’ve just blown it. Everything I’ve been working for. I don’t know why, all I know is that it wasn’t in my control when I took it. That to me is an illness, because if it wasn’t, if it was just about choice, I’d have seen all the positive things going on for me and been able to reason enough to stay away from it.” (Offender)

'Listen to yourself, you're saying you can handle it but you can't. If you could handle any of the stuff you wouldn't be in here – none of us would.' (Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 24th July 2007 @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester