

Prison Threshold Dialogue (7) Cycle 3 on 20th November 07

7 Prisoners (inc 3 Y.O's), 1 Prison Officer and 1 from PD participated in the dialogue

Check-in Q: What would you older hands like to say to the YO's and vice versa?

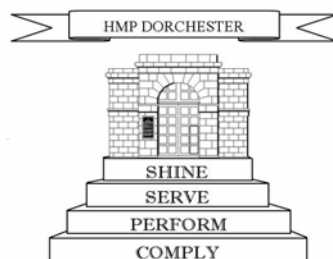
"Get out on the landing, take a look around. All the people there used to be just like you, thinking it was a bit of a laugh. Now they're 30 or 40, sometimes older and it might be too late for them, but it's not too late for you."
(Offender)

"This is my first time in. I'm here for an ASBO breach. All I was doing was hanging around where I shouldn't have been – I take one swig on a can and that's it, I'm in here."
(YO)

"But what are they supposed to do? I don't know how ASBO's are set up, which bit is police and which bit is local authority. If you keep on doing something even if you know what the likely consequences are, then you get caught, this is how the system deals with it."
(Prison Officer)

"Prison is a dump. It's a rubbish way to live, coming in and out of here all the time. Get to your late 20's and you'll see what I mean."
(Offender)

"But is it right to put a kiddie in with us lot? It's not going to help."
(Offender)



**PRISON
DIALOGUE**

"But what's the alternative? I'm not defending it, I'm just saying it how it is."
(Prison Officer)

'I don't want to lecture because I hated being lectured when I was a kid. Don't do as I do, do as I say. Don't take heroin. Don't take crack. You need to have the decision with you when you decide it's time to change. That's it - no more. I wouldn't have listened to me when I was your age either.'
(Offender)

"I've only got six weeks left."
(YO)

'I'm going to Portland tomorrow and I'm nervous about it.'
(YO)

'I don't know. They send me back to prison sometimes and I don't know what I'm supposed to have done. I was helping this lady outside a nightclub who had fallen over drunk. Then she tells the police I took a tenner off her but I never. Then I got done for robbery.'
(Offender)

"I've got to sort my drinking out. I've been denying it, but it's a problem for me."
(Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 27th November @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester