

Prison Threshold Dialogue (7) Cycle 2 on 21st August 07

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

'You walk down the landing and almost every cell on the 3's is a Licence Recall. (Offender)

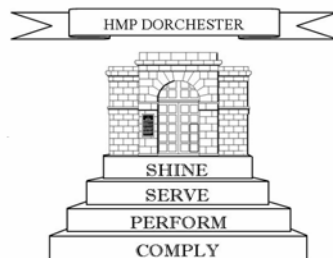
'I just don't think pre-sentence reports are fair. I had an Officer interview me and she said it was going to be fine, but in the report she put the boot right in.' (Offender)

'The hope is that OASys will solve some of the discrepancies and individual bias in PSR's' (Staff)

"My Probation Officer seems to change with the wind direction. I've had about five different ones in the last 18 months. It's hard when I'm going to be released and that person will have a lot of say over me but I don't know them. I've had great Probation Officers in the past, had some rubbish ones too. The good ones aren't the 'soft' ones, they're the ones that you've got a personal connection with and a bit of trust and respect, even if the decision goes the wrong way for you.' (Offender)

"It's so easy to knock Probation, everyone does it in prison. I'm sick of it, sick of us blaming other people. I got myself into this situation and I have to get myself out. If Probation set things up for me that I have to go through, like tests, then I just have to get on and do them." (Offender)

Theme: Probation Issues 2



'Dorset Probation is one of the most proactive Probation Services in the country for recall. It's been noted – it's being addressed.' (Staff)

"I'm not making any grand claims for Probation. We're under-resourced with a big stretch on our workload and like any system we get it wrong sometimes. All I'd say is do what's required of you in full and on time – no excuses. Don't be a grey area or a borderline case, because more likely than not you won't get the benefit of the doubt. We're not here to help you first, we're here to protect the public." (Staff)

Check-out Q: Has today been a waste of time?'

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 28th August @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester