

Prison Threshold Dialogue (3) Cycle 3 on 23rd October 07

6 Prisoners, 1 Governor, 1 Prison Officer and 1 from PD participated in the dialogue

Check- in question: When was the last time you felt hard done by?

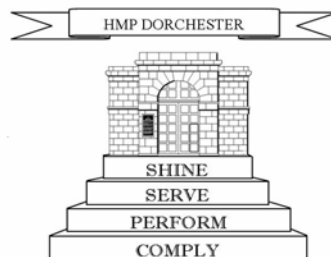
"My visit was cut short by about 20 minutes – that's a liberty. No, I'm serious, it is." (Offender)

"The question's a set-up (laughs) – how stupid do you think we are? I know I moan all the time. There's not much else to do in prison." (Offender)

"I know we laugh about it – everyone's all over it with the big hard luck story in prison. It gets so you've heard it so much you don't take it in anymore. I think there's a truth to it, that in jail you do very little, everything happens TO you. So 95% of your life feels like it's out of your control – that's where the self pity comes from." (Offender)

"It goes round and round in here." (Offender)

Theme: Victim mentality in custody



'Ooh, all the time.' (Offender)

"I think I was passed over for promotion at some point. I'd worked hard to do my job and be noticed so I got angry. The temptation is to say '**** it', but I hung on and eventually a better job came around. It's one of those things about working in a prison. You learn to control your immediate impulses." (Prison Officer)

"It's hard to remember that I have a choice. Perhaps I always had a choice. I got caught up in things at a young age, that's the only thing I'd say, because I was too young to make that decision I just went along with it anyway." (Offender)

"I've put in apps to see housing and no one's come to see me. I wanted to ask (Offender Supervisor) to chase it but they're away on leave. I'll keep putting more apps in until they get sick of me. I don't want to go out with nothing again, it seems like it happens every time I leave prison." (Offender)

"It disappoints me when I hear what's being said in here – I want more of my colleagues to have a chance to get involved, but the way things are at the moment I can't see it happening." (Prison Officer)

"We all get stuffed sometimes. I'm of the belief that you have to move on, you can't dwell on it or it dwells on you. Addicts blame other people, I blame other people and I'm not even an addict! Other people are genuinely to blame some of the time. I'll look for my part in something – what could I have done differently?" (Governor)

"I feel better for coming in today – nearly didn't make it." (Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 30th October @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester