

# Prison Threshold Dialogue (3) Cycle 2 on 24th July 07

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

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'It's constant change. Prisons and Probation are adjusting their systems all the time to try to effect a reduction in re-offending. It's about assessing need and directing the resources to the individual.' (Staff)

'One thing I always say to people is 'you can't beat the system'. In here you just can't, it is the way it is and it always catches up with you. Some people get away with it for a bit but not for long. It's like gambling – it's a mug's game and the house always wins.' (Staff)

'It might be a dumb thing to say but at Dorch, there's almost too many people trying to help you – I'm like: 'enough!' (Offender)

'I'm still cynical but I'll keep coming. I've had a good laugh today. I don't like being told what to think but that's not what this is about so, yeah...' (Offender)

## Theme: Practical steps in custody



*"The point with primary treatment is that you're going to learn a lot of stuff about yourself even if you don't succeed in staying clean immediately. It might be the first step for you in a long road. If the funding is there I'd encourage you to take that opportunity."* (Staff)

*'Yes, thanks a lot it's been good, look forward to seeing you again next week.'* (Staff)

'It's been my first time today. Still not sure what I think of it, but I think it's been better than going to sleep. Good to see Mr H here, lots of sound staff at this nick and he's one of them.' (Offender)

"I've got all these workers, Probation, DIP, Police all making out like I'm this success story and trying to get me into treatment. When they're all sat there willing me on in a meeting, I end up saying 'yes' because I feel a bit outnumbered. Deep down I feel like I want to go on using but I can't admit it to them. I can admit it here at least." (Offender)

'We are actually listening to each other. In a working day we don't get the time to do that (Staff)

**The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 31st August @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester**