

Prison Threshold Dialogue (8) Cycle 2 on 28th August 07

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

'Some people find it harder to stay of drugs in prison. Some find it easy to stay clean inside but lose it on the out.' (Offender)

'I start getting mentally ready about 10 days before I'm due out. You can chase housing all you want but it always seems to only get done at the last minute.' (Offender)

'I remember going through my divorce and it dragged out for almost a year. I moved house, had to settle up in court. Pretty much all my army pension went to her. That was a time of heavy stress for me.' (Staff)

'I got released last time two weeks early. Except they didn't tell me until the morning and I'd got a crack habit in prison. So I ended up at my Probation office, crying, strung out. I wasn't ready to get released. I'd been up all night the night before.' (Offender)

'I've tried to give up but each time I've relapsed after being clean, it sort of chips away at your confidence that you'll ever be able to do it. I was clean for 10 years before the main relapse that got me back here - I had a flat, a job and everything.'
(Offender)

Theme: Transistional Crisis



'I've been released from prison 12 times and I'm finding myself back at Bournemouth train station hooking up with dealers most times. As soon as the stuff hits your system your Probation appointment goes out the window. After that it's only a matter of time before the recall you.' (Offender)

'Maybe that's what keeps you here. Being scared of failing again.' (Offender)

'We never know what happens when you leave here. We only know when we see you back in again. I've heard of people leaving at the gate and not making it as far as the taxi waiting at the barrier. They're off through the car park and over the wall.' (Staff)

'I did get picked up from jail once and it made a big difference. The worker took me down to my accommodation and fixed up a doctor's appointment for me. It just kept me away from my own temptation for enough time to get settled.' (Offender)

'It's what you know isn't it? When the pressure's on you go back to what you know. It's crazy that drugs make me feel safe when in fact they're the most dangerous thing for me.' (Offender)

'Housing finds it really hard to get places in advance for people. They can't keep rooms open because the demand is so high. That's why you don't know until 48 hours before you go out.' (Staff)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 4th September @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester