

## Prison Threshold Dialogue (1) Cycle 1 on 29th January 08

*8 Prisoners, 1 Senior Probation Officer, 1 Police Inspector, 1 Divisional Commander, 1 Reporter from Bournemouth Echo, 1 Prison Officer and 2 from PD participated in the dialogue*

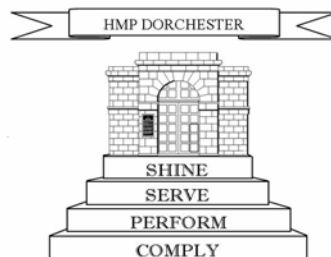
'More than anything, I hate it – the lying, stealing, burgling houses. Sticking needles in myself. I want no more of it but I feel trapped. I don't know how to change.' (Offender)

"Our concern is that, although we want to be the best that we can (for services in Bournemouth), is that we're not seen as this exceptional place to go, because then everyone will arrive on our doorstep. We only have a finite amount of resource and the danger is that, by excelling, we create our own problem." (Police)

"I would rather do a big sentence in prison. I could handle it better here than out there, I am clean the majority of the time and I don't have to worry about anything."

'It's a harsh fact that there's been 23 heroin deaths in Bournemouth in the last few months. The vast majority of these have come back from the labs with alcohol being found in the mix as well. We're aware that all the resourcing is going into drug treatment and alcohol is being under resourced. It's being looked at very carefully.' (Police)

### Theme: Police and Communities



"There's three worlds in Bournemouth – the using 'underworld', the recovery world and normal life. I've been to the recovery world before, but I find it much, much harder to travel over to normal life." (Offender)

***'I've been buzzing when I've been clean. I managed it for six years – did youth work and all sorts.'*** (Offender)

'When I started offending again I slipped up, committed some crimes then thought 'o.k., they're gonna catch me eventually and send me to prison – might as well go the whole monty.' (Offender)

'I got to retirement age but I couldn't give up the good life so I kept eating in nice restaurants but not paying the bill. I'm an alcoholic and I need help with that, but they told me I'm also bi-polar.' (Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester