

Prison Threshold Dialogue (4) Cycle 2 on 31st July 07

5 Prisoners, 1 Governor, 1 Probation Support Officer and 1 Prison Officer participated in the dialogue

'We're all avoiding it. It makes me angry because a human being died out there on the B2's on Friday and everyone is acting as though nothing happened now.'
(Offender)

'I'm like a lot of people. It's not that I don't want to think about it – I CAN'T let myself. If I start thinking about it it's a dangerous thing for me and a lot of people here. That's why everyone likes a laugh and a joke in prison, because it's such a shitty place you've got to keep your mind together and in the right place.'
(Offender)

'It's decisions isn't it? Once someone makes up their mind and hides how they're feeling there's not much anyone can do.'
(Offender)

'I'm fresh back in custody and my head's all over the place – I'm still angry about that guy because I feel that this place has changed this year and not for the better. I don't know. I'm angry at myself too for being here.'
(Offender)

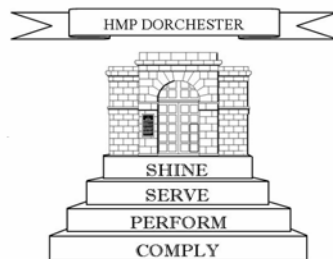
'Everyone bustles along and makes light of it, staff and prisoners. I've had it coming from both sides this time.'
(Staff)

'For my final comment, I'd like everyone to be quiet for a few moments and just reflect that we lost a human being in this jail a few days ago. Thankyou. '
(Staff)

'I want to know what steps this prison is taking to make sure this never happens again – whatever you're doing is not good enough.'
(Offender)

'I hear that you're angry and I understand that, but I'm not going to sit here and listen to my colleagues, some of whom were first on scene and are traumatised, be attacked like this. His name was N. No one knew him on the wing, he kept himself to himself. I can't breach confidentiality but I can say his was a complex case. The Governor and the Chaplain have been invited by his family to speak at his funeral this week. This is a tragic, tragic event.'
(Staff)

Theme: Human Beings



'I could get angry too. I feel like that when someone dies - he was right across the landing from me but if you showed me his photo I couldn't tell you what he looked like. I can't start blaming the system because I'd have to blame myself too. Where was I? I could have befriended the guy and maybe helped him. I didn't, you didn't, they didn't. We're addicts, we blame other people.'
(Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 7th August @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester