

Prison Threshold Dialogue (9) Cycle 3 on 4 December 07

4 Prisoners, 1 Senior Probation Officer, 1 Prison Officer and 1 from Prison Dialogue participated in the dialogue

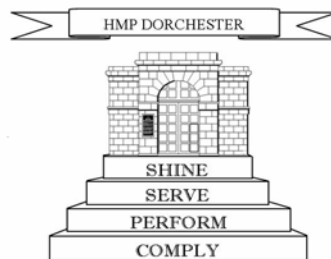
"There's an issue in healthcare in that they haven't got a lead nurse for the main unit. It means that a lot of the day-to-day work is being done by agency staff. Someone has been appointed but I don't think they're starting yet. Although we work closely with them we're not technically the same department." (Carats)

"Healthcare have tried to muck me about before. I'm a junkie, I've been one since I was a young kid. I know perfectly well what 25mg and 50mg DF's look like from across the room. I've been at the hatch before and the nurse has tried to palm me off with a lower dose. I just spotted it straight away. She changed it ok but you get the sense they're trying to put one over on you." (Offender)

"My problem with meth, apart from the whole thing about it being worse than smack, is that I had a script out in Bournemouth. They start you on 55ml, then when you go back and you've been topping up with smack they say that they've been under-prescribing you so they get you right up on a higher dose. Then you miss an appointment somewhere down the line and they pull the script on you. You're left with an £80 a day habit that you can only sort out with heroin and stealing. So you're stuffed." (Offender)

"I was working for the street teams in Bournemouth before getting this job. I'm the lead nurse for the new Intensive Drug Treatment Service. I've been in post since August, the new landing has been finished with the dispensary hatches on the A4's and we've got the office out back. The idea is to be stabilizing people and maintaining them on methadone. We can normally do that for 3 months before we have to wean them off. They're talking about longer in very special circumstances, I've yet to see how that works." (IDTS)

Theme: Drug Treatment



"I don't think the detox is very good in here. I got fobbed off with one small DF and a valium on my first night." (Offender)

"We get annoyed when we see figures about drug treatment outcomes being misrepresented in the media. It implies that nothing anyone does makes any difference which is false. We know people that are out there getting on with their lives and doing ok in jobs and so on. If it wasn't for the drug treatment services they started in here they wouldn't be stable, they'd be in back in jail or dead. Methadone isn't the evil substance it's made out to be. Withdrawal does have to be carefully managed but it's got a number of very beneficial uses for maintenance and detox – not just for heroin but for crack cocaine too." (Carats)

"It's been good to hear about the IDTS first hand – very informative, thank you." (Offender)

"Come back in again, thank you to both of you." (Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 11 December @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester