

# Prison Threshold Dialogue (5) Cycle 3 on 6th November 07

*5 Prisoners, 1 Prison Officer and 1 from PD participated in the dialogue*

"I think the jails are full because there probably isn't the resource to deal with individuals in detail. I've heard all the stories of Probation Officers with 80 active supervision cases on their desks. How you keep on top of that many people in a week I have no idea. I don't think it's uncommon to get those kind of numbers for a Probation Officer." (Prison Officer)

"Why can't I see my partner and my kids? I don't think it's fair." (Offender)

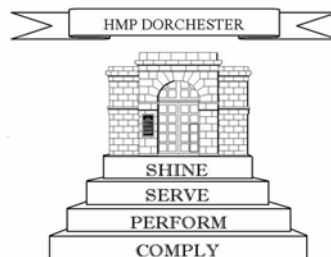
"How can early intervention work? I went to my Probation and said I was struggling, that I felt depressed. She said 'don't say that, it's ringing alarm bells for me.' So I shut up and made out it was all good when behind my face it was falling to bits. I can't admit I'm having problems to someone who's going to send me straight back to jail." (Offender)

"We see jail as an occupational hazard." (Offender)

**"I'd like to think I could get help when I needed it, but 'early intervention' sounds like another buzzword. I've had early intervention – it was a prison recall." (Offender)**

"If you've got a restraining order and you breach it, they'll nick you straight away." (Offender)

"You get in the mindset that you're going to get caught sooner or later so you might as well have a good run at it. By that time you're bingeing, looking pretty bad – first you stop answering your phone, then you put it to voicemail, then you switch it off. Then you smoke it." (Offender)



**PRISON  
DIALOGUE**

"It's addictive, deceit is addictive too. There's a whole buzz out of feeling like you're getting away with it. I'm sure it's the first part of getting in really serious trouble, before drugs or anything. If you can stop young people from going down that path you've got a chance. By the time it goes into hard drugs it's a lot harder." (Offender)

"It's not all about drugs. I like these sessions but sometimes I think there's too much drug talk and it doesn't get us anywhere." (Prison Officer)

*"You're having a go at me for taking drugs in the first place, but how do you know what my mental state was back then? How do you know I wasn't a complete mess or even knew what I was getting myself into?" (Offender)*

"Are we getting outside agencies in like last year?" (Offender)

"It's been truthful today." (Offender)

**The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester**