

Prison Threshold Dialogue (1) Cycle 3 on 09th October 07

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

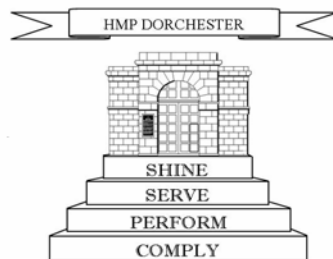
"There's a whole thing around shoplifting. It's like gambling, you're doing it right under the nose of the cameras and store detectives and there's a line you cross at the shop door and within moments, you've either gotten away with it or you feel a hand on your shoulder. It's exciting, very buzzy. It's not just what I'm nicking – sometimes I feel like I want to up the stakes." (Offender)

"I just got picked up this week. I was supposed to be in London on licence but I came down to see my girlfriend. She was a working girl and I didn't like her working but if I was using it didn't matter to me, so I started using again. I was doing a car park trawl down by the BIC, looking at cars for sat navs and stuff. Suddenly I've got Robocop all over me and I'm back in here. I had some gear on me when I was picked up, I was gutted." (Offender)

"This was last week? You didn't know it was the Labour Party Conference in Bournemouth at the BIC last week! The place was crawling with armed police – you were lucky you didn't get shot! (laughing)" (Offender)

"It's all about drugs now – there's courses for it, SDP, 12 step, Aftercare. But my problem has always been alcohol, that's when I do stuff, when I've had a drink." (Offender)

Theme: Crime Addiction



"They sent me to see a counsellor. But then I'm telling him things and somehow it's getting back to my Probation Officer. Are they allowed to do that? It's sneaky." (Offender)

"I don't see how any of this helps. Once you've lived this life as long as I have, it's too late to change." (Offender)

"It's alright for you – you're a (kitchen) orderly. Take a couple of hours out on a Tuesday and you can make it up elsewhere. I need any money I can get in here, I can't afford to miss education and not get paid." (Offender)

"I hear that, but it's YOUR decision. It doesn't apply to everyone here." (Prison Officer)

"You're trying to negotiate with it. No, having a drink isn't illegal, unless it's stated in your licence conditions. If you've got a problem history with alcohol and you choose to drink, you end up chucked out of your accommodation and back in here." (Prison Officer)

"No, we're not having a go – ok, maybe we are. It's just that you're arguing a point and everyone can see it's b*****s except you. If you're right and we're wrong, then how come you're back in again? You've only been gone 3 weeks." (Offender)

"Thought- provoking as ever. I worry a bit when I feel we're going round in circles. See you next week." (Prison Officer)

"It can't always be everyone else's fault." (Offender)

The next Prison Threshold Dialogue will take place on Tuesday 16th October @ 2.00pm in the Chapel, HMP Dorchester