



NEW MILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

By the Community, For the Community

Discussion Group – December Meeting

At our December Meeting, one of the questions we discussed was care for the mentally ill, many of whom are looked after in overcrowded prisons. Among the views and concerns expressed were:

- 1. Too many offenders are sent to prison instead of receiving 'community service' sentences.**
- 2. Too many prisoners reoffend and are consequently returned to prison.**
- 3. Some felt the solution was to identify the causes of offending and put preventative measures in place, while others felt that tougher sentencing and harsher treatment whilst serving their sentence would deter offenders from committing crime and reoffending.**
- 4. Prison is no place for the mentally ill (21% of prisoners are diagnosed with a mental illness during the year preceding the start of their sentence, whilst many remain undiagnosed) and should be treated by the NHS.**
- 5. Drug users should be treated for their 'illness' not sent to prison, where drug use is common-place, whilst drug dealers should be met with the full force of the law.**
- 6. Today, the pressures on young people to achieve, leads to criminality, especially those from deprived areas.**
- 7. The NHS is no longer functioning as intended, and will always be abused as long as it remains a free service for all, and there is no political will to reorganise and update the NHS.**
- 8. We need more funding, less managers and more doctors in the NHS.**
- 9. It is more expensive to keep an individual in prison than to treat them on the NHS.**

Do try one of our meetings as a free Taster and have your say!

