

Probe into death of woman classed as a 'suicide risk'

HULL: Ambulance 'took two hours' to reach 22-year-old

InShort

An investigation has been launched into the death of a young woman in Hull. The city coroner has ordered an inquest.

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A YOUNG woman was found dead after she was sent home from a mental health unit in Hull.

The 22-year-old woman dialled 999 but was already dead by the time a paramedic was sent to her home.

Now, an investigation has been launched into the actions of Yorkshire Ambulance Service and Humber Foundation Trust, which runs Miranda House.

Hull Coroner's Office has ordered an inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death, with a provisional date set for early next year.

One NHS worker, who is not being named to protect her job, claimed it took paramedics almost two hours to arrive at the woman's home after she called 999.

She said: "There is an issue with the mental health team discharging her when she was obviously a suicide risk."

"This woman was quite well-known and had made threats of suicide before. But she was only 22 and obviously unwell. No one deserves to die like that."

The woman, who is not being identified by the Mail, is believed to have called Yorkshire Ambulance three times before her death, threatening to kill herself.

On the second occasion, she was admitted to Miranda House.

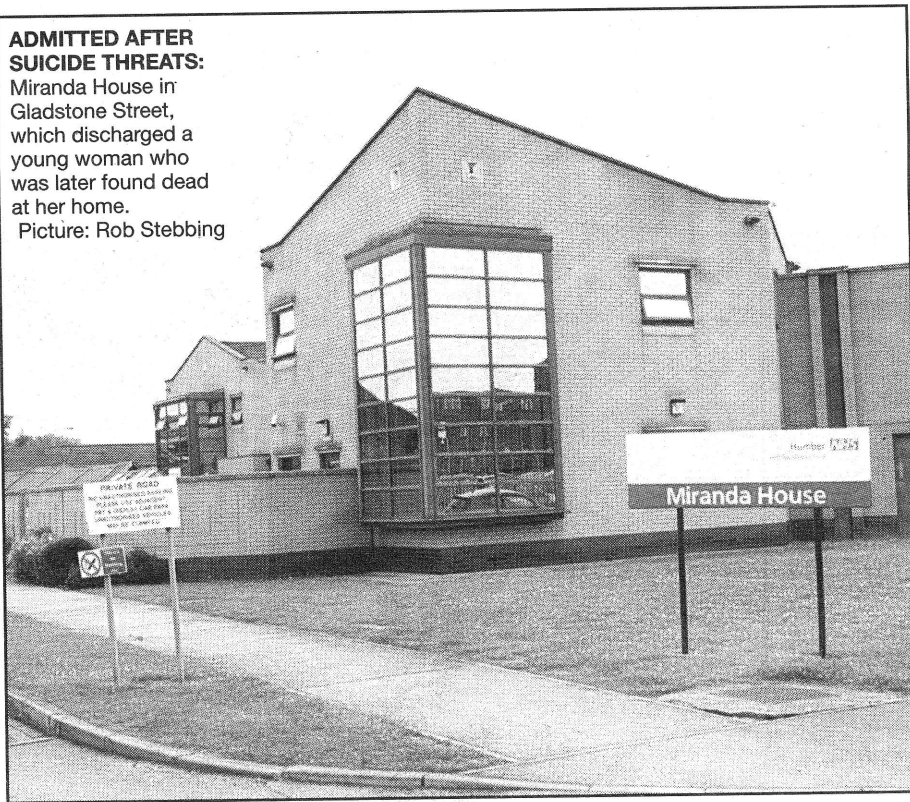
The building in Gladstone Street, west Hull, offers a single point of access for adults experiencing a mental health crisis.

Its team assesses patients through mental health triage and assessment before decid-

ADMITTED AFTER SUICIDE THREATS:

Miranda House in Gladstone Street, which discharged a young woman who was later found dead at her home.

Picture: Rob Stebbing



There is an issue with the mental health team discharging her when she was obviously a suicide risk

NHS worker

ing on the appropriate course of action.

However, after the woman was taken to Miranda House, staff are believed to have considered her well enough to be discharged.

The woman called 999 again at 5.30pm on July 25, but an ambulance was not dispatched to her home in west Hull until later.

A paramedic, who started his shift at 7pm, is understood to have been sent to the woman's home in a rapid response vehicle.

However, he discovered the woman was already dead when he arrived.

The health service worker said concerns were being voiced about the time it took an ambulance to reach her.

She said: "When someone rings 999, they should get an ambulance as soon as possible but it seems that the ambulance service is playing Russian Roulette with people's lives."

"To not send an ambulance to her home for almost two hours is unacceptable."

"I've been told the paramedic is distraught, but there was nothing he could do. She was dead by the time he reached her and he'd only started his shift ten minutes earlier."

An investigation has been launched into the handling of the woman's case by Humber Foundation Trust, which runs Miranda House, and Yorkshire Ambulance Service, responsible for sending the paramedic to her home.

A spokesman for Humber NHS Foundation Trust said: "We have been asked to comment about the circumstances around the tragic death of a young person in Hull. We are unable to respond at this time."

A spokesman for Yorkshire Ambulance Service said: "We are fully committed to assisting HM Coroners with their enquiries."

"It would not be appropriate for the trust to comment on a specific case where the circumstances are subject to an inquest."



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