

Train death mother 'badly let down'

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A **Huddersfield** man who lost his wife when she stepped in front of a train while suffering from postnatal depression has said there had been "horrendous failings" in her treatment as a coroner recorded a narrative verdict at her inquest.

Chris Bingley, 42, said his wife Joanne, a qualified nurse, was "badly let down by the NHS organisation she worked for".

Mr **Bingley** spoke out after coroner, Professor Paul Marks, concluded that Mrs **Bingley** took her own life while suffering from severe postnatal depression.

The three-day inquest was told Mrs **Bingley** struggled to cope following the birth of their daughter Emily. At one point, Mr **Bingley** demanded his wife be hospitalised as she became more depressed and expressed suicidal thoughts.

Mrs **Bingley**, 39, was given a home-based care plan in which her husband was the designated carer. The Bradford inquest was told she left her home on the morning of April 30 last year and was killed instantly when she was hit by a train near Deighton railway station, **Huddersfield**.

Mr **Bingley** said: "Joe was a dedicated, caring nursing professional who touched the lives of hundreds of people, many of whom attended her funeral, and to whom I was unable to explain the horrors she had suffered. However, it was after her death that I was shocked and horrified into taking action by the condescending and patronising comments.

"Having suffered a horrific tragedy in losing my wife, my life and that of Joe's family was made into a living nightmare, by the NHS denial that they did anything wrong and their attempts to suggest that we, the family, were in some way to blame for Joe's death.

This has been a very painful and costly journey and I have had to suffer people's scorn, condescending remarks and attempts to block me and put me down."

Mr **Bingley** said an independent investigation concluded that his wife should have been hospitalised in a specialist unit at least three days prior to her death and he said if this had happened she would have received treatment that would have resulted in her full recovery.

He said the recommendations of the independent investigation resulted in a 21 point action plan of improvements being implemented across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Mr **Bingley**, from Fartown, **Huddersfield**, added: "For the sake of our daughter, I hope that the Joanne **Bingley** Memorial Foundation I have established will create such a legacy by providing support to others and by making a difference to the future provision of perinatal mental health care."