

Coronation Street faces storm over suicide plot copycat fear: Campaigners' fears over decision to show character Hayley Cropper kill herself before 9pm watershed

Campaigners have criticized plans to show a Coronation Street character killing herself before the watershed at 9 o'clock, warning it could lead to copycat suicides among young viewers.

Coronation Street character Hayley Cropper (played by Julie Hesmondhalgh) committed suicide in the Coronation Street episode aired on Monday 20th January 2014 at 7.30pm.



Miss Hesmondhalgh's final scenes in the soap showed her drinking a cocktail of drugs before dying in bed in the arms of her husband.

She mixed the lethal drink herself and told him not to touch the glass, to avoid him dying too. Mr. Cropper disagreed with her decision and was left filled with feelings of guilt and anger once she died.

On the 14th January 2014, anti-euthanasia group Care Not Killing said it was 'irresponsible' to schedule the storyline before the 9pm

watershed when it would be seen by young viewers and Mediawatch UK director Vivienne Pattison said she feared the episode could lead to 'copycat' suicides. 'Putting it before a 9pm watershed, we can assume fairly safely that there are going to be children watching it,' she added.

They fear that this scenario being viewed by young viewers could lead to an increase of suicides amongst young children and believe that this content should not be shown before the 9pm watershed.

By Michaela Vary