42nd Street and MMU present:

 Alone/Together

Shining a spotlight on youth loneliness

22nd - 26th March 2021

Online: [Facebook](https://m.facebook.com/42ndStreetmcr/) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/42ndStreetmcr) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/thehorsfall_42ndstreet/) [Website](https://www.42ndstreet.org.uk/the-horsfall.html)

Over the last year we have all experienced loneliness in ways that we could never have imagined. Research has shown that it’s been especially hard on young people.

This isn’t a new crisis, but it’s one that has become more apparent during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2016, [the Co-op Foundation commissioned a research project into youth](https://www.lonelinessconnectsus.org/) loneliness – this was a collaboration between MMU and 42nd Street. 200+ young people across the UK were involved and the results sparked a vital conversation.

Fast forward to 2021 and this research has never been more important. Young people are returning to face to face education after prolonged periods away from their friends – the worries and anxieties about missing out, about changes, and about isolation will have been amplified for so many people.

“I feel like a stranger
living someone else’s story,
I want you to notice,
yet I want you to ignore me. “

* Excerpt from the poem ‘Alone/Together’

**Between 22nd - 26th March The Horsfall at 42nd Street be shining a spotlight on youth loneliness. We’ll be sharing resources and amplifying the voices of our young people who have spoken about the subject.**

We are very excited to launch *Lost & Found –* an interactive experience which aims to open up a conversation around and increase understanding of youth loneliness.

[**Lost and Found**](http://www.42ndstreet.org.uk/lostandfound.html)

Written by: Tricia Coleman, John Sear, Vee Uye & Jana Wendler

Based on the 2016 research, this is an interactive story which casts the players as trainee police officers searching for a fictional missing young person. The player examines clues, watches interviews with friends and family, and solves puzzles in order to piece together the story.

*Lost & Found* is aimed at an audience of young people aged 11-25 and professionals working with young people in settings ranging from health to education to social care. The interactive story offers a space to explore how feelings of loneliness and isolation might manifest for young people today in response to a variety of pressures. It builds on universal themes of transition and the search for connection when becoming an adult, but also raises questions about the impact of wider societal conditions on young people’s lives.

**How to support us?**

* Follow and support our social media channels: [Facebook](https://m.facebook.com/42ndStreetmcr/) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/42ndStreetmcr) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/thehorsfall_42ndstreet/)
* Use these example tweets from 22nd March:

This week @42ndstreetMCR are shining a spotlight on youth loneliness. Follow them to find resources, hear from young people and experience a new interactive story which explores loneliness and isolation. #AloneTogether #LostAndFound

“Touching loneliness is like touching a ghost,

like holding the hand of the most scared part of yourself.” – from a poem written in collaboration between @**HelenMort** and @42ndStreetMCR. #AloneTogether

* Or if you want to share any of your own resources or comments on youth loneliness, please join in using the hashtag #AloneTogether
* If you are interested in interviews, graphics or further details then **please get in touch**. The full information about ‘Lost and Found’ and the original research can be found here: [www.42ndstreet.org.uk/alonetogether.html](http://www.42ndstreet.org.uk/alonetogether.html)