**[Systematic or Rapid Review Title]**

**[Date]**

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**Acknowledgements**

[Provide acknowledgements here]

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[List author contributions here, if needed]

**Funding and competing interests**

[Provide funding body here and any competing interests]

**About What Works for Children’s Social Care**

What Works for Children’s Social Care seeks better outcomes for children, young people and families by bringing the best available evidence to practitioners and other decision makers across the children’s social care sector. We generate, collate and make accessible the best evidence for practitioners, policy makers and practice leaders to improve children’s social care and the outcomes it generates for children and families

**About [Author Organisation]**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

* Provide a brief explanation of the study, including a rationale and aims

## Objectives

* Detail the questions you are aiming to answer by conducting the research

## Methods

* Provide a brief overview of methods including whether the review is a rapid review or full systematic review, searches undertaken, study selection criteria, assessment of risk of bias and method of synthesis.

## Results

* Provide a short summary of the key findings including number of studies identified, a description of study characteristics, a synthesis of their findings, and any conclusions drawn in relation to study risk of bias.

## Conclusion

* What are the key conclusions to draw from your findings? What are the recommendations for research and practice?

# INTRODUCTION

* Provide an introduction to the study - include problem description, study rationale and relevant background evidence. Provide any definitions of key constructs to be used in the review. Use subheadings as appropriate.

# OBJECTIVES

* Explicitly state research aim & primary and secondary research questions

# METHODS

## Protocol registration

* Include information on protocol registration if one already exists - provide registration number

## Study eligibility criteria

* Using appropriate subheadings, provide details on study eligibility criteria (such as population, geographical region, intervention and comparator, primary and secondary outcomes, study design and reporting), giving rationale for each.

## Search strategy

* Describe the search strategy, including databases searched, an overview of search terms, and any limits (e.g. date, language, geographic), as well as any grey literature or citation searches. Provide an example from at least one database in an appendix.

## Study selection

* Describe the process of study screening and selection, including use of any software and multiple screeners where appropriate and how disagreements were resolved.

## Data extraction

* Describe what data was extracted from each study, and how this was recorded. Report how multiple publications from the same study were handled.

## Study design categorisation

* Describe how studies were categorised by evaluation design, and what designs these were. Indicate whether any additional recording was made of analytic techniques e.g. to reduce selection bias and improve comparability between service and control groups.

## Risk of bias assessment

* Describe methods and criteria used for assessing risk of bias in individual studies.

## Assessing the certainty of evidence

* Describe methods to judge confidence in the evidence, e.g. using GRADE criteria.

## Data analysis and synthesis

* Describe how data were analysed and synthesized, including whether meta-analysis was undertaken, and any graphs or tables used to present findings.

# RESULTS

## Search Results

* Describe the search results, including how many studies were included or excluded at each stage. Include a PRISMA flow diagram of study selection.

## Characteristics of included studies

* Provide an overview of included studies, including e.g. sample population, sample size, interventions, outcome measures, study locations, study design. Where possible this should be accompanied by a table of key characteristics.

## Risk of bias within studies

* Summarise findings in relation to risk of bias in individual studies.

## Certainty of evidence assessment

* Summarise findings in relation to certainty of evidence assessment e.g. using GRADE.

## Synthesis of results

* Using appropriate sub-headings, summarise the study findings in relation to the review’s primary and secondary research questions, illustrated with tables and figures as appropriate.

# DISCUSSION

## Summary of findings

* Summarise findings including how many studies were included, study characteristics, individual study findings and findings of the risk of bias and certainty of evidence assessments.

## Discussion of findings

* Discuss and interpret findings in relation to primary and secondary research questions and in the context of existing literature.

## Strengths and limitations of the review methods

* Consider the strengths and limitations of the systematic review in terms of its focus and methodology.

## Strengths and limitations of available evidence

* Consider the strengths and limitations of the available evidence, including an overview of the risk of bias in included studies, clarity of reporting, as well as any gaps in the available evidence in relation to the research questions.

## Recommendations for practice and policy

* Describe any recommendations for practice and policy based on the review findings. State clearly where evidence is inconsistent or weak.

## Recommendations for research

* Describe any recommendations or next steps of research based on the review findings or any gaps the review has not been able to address.

## Conclusion

* Provide a summary of the key conclusions from the research & recommendations.

# 

# 6 REFERENCES

[List references in alphabetical order here]

# 7 APPENDICES

## Appendix 1:

Appendices should include an example search strategy, additional tables on excluded papers, study characteristics, findings and risk of bias assessments if appropriate.