Appendix A – Completed template evaluating the options against the proposed outcomes criteria

Option	Strengths	Weaknesses
1	Targeted commissioning addresses unmet need / increases choice / potential to improve outcomes and address blockages. Could address each partners commissioning priorities (dementia nursing, reablement or respite as examples) Potential for positive financial impacts in short term if nursing services can be re-shaped. May depend on FNC / CHC arrangements and funding formulas. Possibility of savings to LAs (less likely for Health). Where savings are achievable more likely to occur in longer term via process/structure changes required to achieve full pooled fund (e.g. via specialised or centralised commissioning functions). Gradual approach allows time to develop solutions to sustainability and resilience problems. May allow for re-investment of any efficiency savings. May allow reshaping of nursing services to address nursing shortfalls. A staged approach is more practical to achieve. It allows for planning needed to achieve incremental change. Staged approach minimises financial risks and allows time to	May create extra work without satisfying WG. Does not lead to any other systems /process, structure or service changes – no commissioning benefits in the short term. Less opportunity to plan to realise benefits potentially available from full pooled funds. Delaying full pooled fund may not be acceptable to WG. Delaying may not achieve financial savings quickly enough. Delaying will reduce opportunity for faster change to systems/processes, structure and services. Detailed analysis of expenditure and placement patterns may highlight need for additional financial contributions from individual parties.

	develop governance arrangements designed to manage risks associated with full pooled fund Creates trust between partners by developing arrangements slowly / requiring commitments gradually Is more deliverable in this sense. Transactional approach is seen by some as more likely to meet WG requirements (e.g. West Wales and Cardiff and Vale)	
2	Leads to actual pooled budget during 2nd year (meets requirements of Part 9 and acceptable to WG) Opportunity for efficiency savings as soon as 2 nd year. Stepped approach to achieving services changes. Enables each partner to maintain autonomy over all other systems, processes, functions, structures etc.	No service improvements initially. Some opportunity costs associated with new payment arrangements (project management / other start-up costs). Information management systems required to reconcile payments with placements. Possible workforce impacts (legal and political issues?)
3	Achieves part 9 obligations. If funding formulas could be agreed quickly may lead to financial contributions which more accurately reflect each partner's liabilities. Radical change may offer potential for biggest gains.	Radical change poses biggest risks (financial, political, workforce, deliverability, market stability etc.). Radical change will generate most resistance. Timescales allow for very little preparation. At this stage partners do not have a full understanding of the nature and magnitude of change that is required.