**Benbecula Medical Practice to transfer to Health Board Management in April 2024**

Due to ongoing challenges recruiting GPs to work at **Benbecula Medical Practice,** and the planned retiral of Dr Mark Johnson at the end of March 2024, the GP partners have taken the decision to transfer the running of the Practice to NHS Western Isles from April 2024.

Patients should not notice any change in services provided. Dr Kate Dawson will continue working in the Practice, and Dr Johnson may continue to work part time. The medical team will be supported in the short term by locum doctors.

The Practice and NHS Western Isles will ensure patients and the public are kept up to date with any changes. The key principles are to maintain continuity of care, high clinical standards, and consistent staffing. We would like to reassure all patients that the aim is to preserve and enhance the existing service.

In the coming months Senior Managers at the Health Board will be working with the Practice to support the transition process. The current staff will be transferred to NHS Western Isles employment from April 1  2024.

Doctors Kate Dawson and Mark Johnson stated: “As we hope you will understand, this has been a difficult decision to make. We need to ensure that the practice is well-managed in the long term, and in the absence of new GP partners, we are doing this in a planned way, which is in the best interests of patients and staff.”

NHS Western Isles Medical Director, Dr Frank McAuley, said: “I’d like to take this opportunity to commend Drs Dawson and Johnson for the gold standard service they have provided to patients on Benbecula over the years. Their commitment and dedication to providing patients with the best possible care has been unwavering. We look forward to continuing to work with Dr Dawson and Dr Johnson to ensure the continued high standard of service from April 2024. We will ensure patients and the public are kept up to date and informed throughout the process.”