Press Release

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Top professor invited back to help rebuild Alderney's primary healthcare

Alderney's primary healthcare model goes back under the microscope in 2020 with a further study sanctioned by Guernsey health chiefs but led by the States of Alderney.

A team led by Professor Philip Wilson, Director of the Centre for Rural Health at Aberdeen University, is being invited to build on a 2017 report that followed the closure of Eagle Medical Practice.

Alderney's Policy & Finance Committee has approved the terms of reference for a review to determine what sort of GP model the island both needs and wants.

Although healthcare on the island is funded by Guernsey, its Health & Social Care Committee wants Alderney to lead the review process to ensure it's acceptable to the island community.

Prof. Wilson's 2017 report listed four options that could meet the demand for a stable and high quality GP service trusted by Alderney residents, together with its requirement to provide support for the Mignot Memorial Hospital Emergency Department and inpatient care.

His preferred option in 2017 was for a single medical practice in a contractual relationship with Guernsey but supported with direct involvement by the States of Alderney. This would be similar to the UK approach although patients could still be charged fees.

Other options suggested included a two-practice private model, popular with residents at the time of the review, a single practice private model, and a single Guernsey-run practice.

At the time, Prof. Wilson wrote: "The single practice States-supported model is most likely to meet the needs of the Alderney population in terms of quality, flexibility and affordability. It is the model most likely to be acceptable to the majority of the population and most likely to attract good clinicians to Alderney."

It would also mean that at least three GPs, or two GPs and one nurse practitioner, would need to have substantive involvement with both primary care and medical cover at MMH.

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