MINI BULLETIN – 25 February 2023

**NHS Volunteer Responders** – the large-scale flexible programme launched during COVID-19 – has entered a new phase.

Operating across health and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, volunteers will assist in emergencies and help to reduce pressure and improve the patient experience.

New services will be developed in 2023.

Valuable services will return with the first ones being Check In and Chat and Check In and Chat Plus. This volunteer [support](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk%2Freferral%2Fhow-refer&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cfaccb4f6546a4af85e9108db165a9169%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638128350456102430%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=anW8h8M%2FJ7e1Xm0pAoj%2FRMaUiRqPgd9nYsZLFvmwafQ%3D&reserved=0) reduces isolation and supports good mental health.

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| Six GP practices in Essex will be **taken over by a private provider** under 15-year APMS contracts worth a total of £91m. |

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