# Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Proposes Mandatory National Service for 18-Year-Olds in the UK



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has proposed that a future Conservative government would introduce mandatory national service for 18-year-olds in the UK. Announced on May 25, 2024, this policy mandates that young adults either commit to a full-time military commission or volunteer one weekend per month in roles such as special constables, RNLI volunteers, or NHS responders.

A royal commission is set to design the program, which would commence applications in September 2025, backed by a proposed National Service Act. The scheme aims to provide young people with real-world skills and opportunities while contributing to their country and community.

The Conservative Party claims the proposal, inspired by similar successful programs in Sweden, is essential for addressing long-term national challenges and fostering a sense of duty among the youth.

Labour Party representatives criticized the proposal as desperate and unfunded, suggesting the scheme is an attempt to make young people rectify issues created by the government. The funding for the program would purportedly derive from a £1bn tax avoidance clampdown and £1.5bn from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.