# Rishi Sunak Proposes Mandatory National Service for 18-Year-Olds in Election Manifesto



**Rishi Sunak Proposes Mandatory National Service for 18-Year-Olds**

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has announced plans for the reinstatement of national service for 18-year-olds if the Conservative Party wins the upcoming general election. This marks the party’s first major policy proposal following Sunak's announcement of the general election.

The proposed scheme, scheduled to be fully implemented by 2029-30, would legally require all 18-year-olds to either undertake a 12-month full-time placement with the armed forces or cyber defense, or engage in community volunteering one weekend a month for a year. This policy would reintroduce mandatory national service for the first time since it was abolished in 1960.

Sunak advocates that this modern national service will equip young people with valuable skills and create a shared sense of purpose, contributing to societal unity and national security. He stated, “This is going to foster a culture of service and bolster our national resilience in these uncertain times.”

However, the plan has met with criticism. Labour leader Keir Starmer labeled it as "desperate" and suggested it would result in a "teenage Dad’s Army." Military experts, including Justin Crump, have also voiced concerns about the feasibility and implications of the proposal, highlighting potential burdens on the armed forces.

The scheme intends to offer about 30,000 full-time military placements, while the majority of 18-year-olds would likely participate in community service roles with various organizations, including charities, the NHS, and emergency services. Recent surveys indicate that a significant portion of the public, including regions with large teenage populations such as Birmingham and the Black Country, would be affected by this policy.

Furthermore, members of the Royal Family would also be subject to the proposed national service. A survey conducted by MailOnline revealed that 85% of respondents support the inclusion of young royals in the mandatory program.

Sunak’s election proposal promises to establish a Royal Commission to finalize the details of the program and ensure it opens for applications by September 2025, aiming for full implementation by the end of the next parliamentary term.