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## **NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE ANNOUNCES HIGH-PROFILE PATRONS BOARD CHAIRIED BY DAVID CAMERON**

Flagship youth empowerment programme National Citizen Service (NCS) today announces the membership of its new NCS Patrons Board, chaired by former Prime Minister David Cameron.

Eighteen NCS Patrons have been appointed to work with the NCS Executive team to make sure as many Year 11 teenagers as possible get to experience NCS; helping to create a more engaged, more cohesive and more socially mobile society.

The new Patrons span the political and social spectrum and are highly accomplished individuals who have excelled in their respective fields. The Board has cross party support including: Labour peer Lord Alli, Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE, DL, and Conservative peer Baroness Brady of Knightsbridge CBE. Other Patrons include: CBI Director General Carolyn Fairbairn, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre Jude Kelly CBE, General Sir Nick Carter, The Chief of the General Staff of the British Army, Entrepreneur Jamal Edwards MBE and Dame Louise Casey, DBE, CB.

With expertise in education, the cultural industries, media, charity and business the Patrons will bring their knowledge, passion and energy to NCS. The Patrons Board further includes:

- Robert Peston, ITV journalist and Founder of Speakers for Schools
- Sarah Sands, Editor of Radio 4's Today programme
- Javed Khan, Chief Executive of Barnardo's
- Tim Allan, Founder of Portland PR
- Nicola Dandridge CBE, Universities UK Chief Executive
- David Sheepshanks CBE, DL the Chair of UK Community Foundations
- Justine Roberts CBE, Founder and Chief Executive of Mumsnet
- David Joseph CBE, Chairman and CEO of Universal Music UK
- James Harding, BBC Director of News and Current Affairs
- Dame Sally Coates DBE, Director of Academies South for United Learning

Commenting on the announcement Chair of NCS Patrons, David Cameron, said:

“I’m so proud to welcome such an inspirational group of individuals to the NCS Patrons Board.

“These people already make a huge contribution to our country in media, education, business, sport, music, politics and the Armed Forces. By investing in our young people - helping them, through NCS, to become confident, resilient, tolerant and happy adults - they will be make an even bigger contribution still. I can’t wait to start working together.”

Justine Roberts CBE commented:

“The adult world awaiting today’s teenagers will be challenging as well as exciting; everything from AI to the changing climate will test their mettle to the limit. NCS is a brilliant way to develop the creativity, resourcefulness and self-confidence that will see the next generation through, which is why I’m delighted to become a Patron.”

Recent independent research has revealed that NCS can have a positive impact on a young person’s life skills, confidence and resilience. Carolyn Fairbairn commented:

“Employers I speak to are seeking to recruit young people with teamwork, leadership and communications skills – all the skills that NCS helps to develop. Indeed over 70% of NCS graduates say they feel more confident about getting a job in future after being part of NCS. I am delighted to lend my support to this programme.”

Jamal Edwards MBE added:

“Self-belief and resilience has got me to where I am today so any experience that helps young people develop these qualities has to be a good thing. NCS is proven to help teens feel they can handle whatever comes their way - giving this opportunity to as many young people as possible something I strongly believe in and I’m really looking forward to getting involved as a patron.”

Baroness Brady CBE explained:

“All young people should be given the opportunity to fulfil their potential. As a mother and a businesswoman, I understand how important it is to instil confidence and self-belief in young people. NCS sets teens up for life – whether it’s giving them the edge when applying for university or inspiring an entrepreneurial spirit – and I’m very proud to be a patron.”

NCS is facing a record breaking year with more than 100,000 young people signed up for a summer of fun, adventure and social action. Since its launch in 2011, NCS will have had 400,000 young people participate in programmes across England and Northern Ireland. Places for NCS this Summer can still be booked online at [www.ncsyes.co.uk](http://www.ncsyes.co.uk).

ENDS

### Contact

For more information about the NCS Patrons Board or to speak to NCS Patrons and/or NCS grads please contact [teamncspr@kindredagency.com](mailto:teamncspr@kindredagency.com) or call 020 7010 0800.

### Notes

The newly formed Patrons Board will sit alongside NCS Trust Non-Executive Board of Directors chaired by Stephen Greene comprised of members from across the public, private and voluntary sector including: Dame Julia Cleverdon, Vice-Patron Of Teach First & Vice-President Of Business In The Community, The Rt Hon. the Lord David Blunkett, and Dame Martina Milburn, CEO Prince's Trust.

This year the NCS Act received royal assent with support from all parties.

### About NCS

National Citizen Service (NCS) is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity open to 15-17 year olds across England.

It is a unique two or three week full-time programme focused around fun and discovery, plus 30 hours committed to a community project that benefits both young people and society. On this government backed programme, participants build skills for work and life, while taking on new challenges and adventures, making new friends, and contributing to their community.

With activities, food and accommodation all inclusive for £50, NCS represents great value for money for parents/guardians. Government backing means that it costs just £50 or less to take part in NCS and bursaries are available on a case by case basis. Support is provided for young people with additional needs.

Participants spend up to two weeks away from home with all meals and activities covered. The first week is spent at an outward bound facility participating in activities such as abseiling, water rafting and canoeing. The second week teens live away from home, typically at local university halls of residence, learning how to be self-sufficient, developing new skills and finding out more about the needs of their local community.

Taking place outside school/term time, teens can sign up for the part-residential experience and participate in either the spring, summer or autumn programmes. In every programme they will experience four sections that focus on personal and social development including leadership, teamwork and communication skills. Not only do 16 and 17 year olds have the chance to give something back, but it also looks great on CVs and helps with job, college

and university applications, building future aspirations. NCS is now recognised by UCAS and taking part is a sought after addition to any CV.

In 2013, NCS Trust, an independent social enterprise, was established to manage NCS and execute the ambitious expansion of the government backed programme.

To find out more information about NCS or to sign up to NCS visit [NCSyes.co.uk](https://www.ncsyes.co.uk). Like us on [facebook.com/ncs](https://www.facebook.com/ncs), follow us on Instagram @ncsyes and Twitter @ncs find us at Snapchat NCSYES or subscribe to the NCSYes channel on YouTube.

## **7 Fast Facts About NCS**

1. NCS is the largest and fastest growing youth movement for 16-17 year olds in our country
2. Young people from all backgrounds mix together on NCS, and we have reached proportionately more young people who don't normally benefit from extra-curricular programmes
3. The four week NCS programme is the beginning of young people's engagement, not the end
4. NCS is delivered by more than 200 local charities and community groups
5. NCS helps its graduates to get on in life, boosting university admission, job prospects and reducing anxiety
6. NCS increases electoral participation
7. NCS is an investment in our country's future with a positive social return