February 2021

The Premier Partnership Limited

Your Family Office

Good Housekeeping

TOP TIPS

NewsLETTER

As we approach the end of the current tax year, in this Newsletter we will look at top tips for planning, prior to year end on 5 April, and things you need to consider.

With the effects of the pandemic in mind, we will look at what does tidy and efficient planning look like. What happens if something happens to me - do you know? What needs to be done and are your papers in order to assist and help your Executors in the process? Good housekeeping with your financial paperwork, requirements and wishes, can be helped by our newly launched digital client portal, which has a facility for you to securely store documents. So you can create a one stop storage place for everything that will be needed in the future. Do your family know what is in your employment contract - if applicable? Does your contract contain employee benefits such as Death in Service Life Assurance?

We will look in more depth at all of these issues in this publication, and as always if there is anything further you wish to discuss please contact us.

End Of Tax Year Planning

Whilst writing this article, we are conscious that it will be issued before The Budget on 3 March, so we will immediately update any areas that require client attention as soon as possible thereafter.

Tip One: Plan Early

As we enter a New Year, we begin the season of tax planning before The Budget. With the new panoply of technology we all have at our fingertips, there is no excuse for 'missing the boat' of planning. That is not to say material tax changes are necessarily expected, but we would all be naïve to believe no action at all will be taken to silence the sirens baying for repayment of the Covid-19 bill.

Tip Two: Income Tax

Remember, whilst tax planning is an important part of financial planning, it is not the only part. It is essential that any tax planning strategy also makes complete personal and commercial sense.

For married couples/civil partners, ensure each of you have sufficient income to use your personal tax allowance - £12,500 in 2020/21. We expect this to rise to £12,570 for 2021/22. Remember your personal allowance is gradually withdrawn for individuals with net adjusted income above £100,000. Individual pension contributions from a personal account can help reduce your taxable income assessment, thereby potentially restoring all or part of your personal allowance.

Invest in tax free investments such as ISA's to replace taxable income and gains with Tax Free income and gains, or investment bonds that can offer valuable tax deferment.

Consider potential redistribution of investment capital between spouses/civil partners to potentially reduce the rate of tax suffered on income and gains. No capital gains tax or income tax liability will arise on transfers between married couples or civil partners living together, or where the capital is transferred to an investment bond.

Tip Three: Capital Gains Tax

Capital Gains Tax planning in this context, means taking action ahead of any disposal of a chargeable asset, ahead of - or at the time of - the disposal to eliminate or reduce a potential future liability.

This could involve:

- The timing of the transaction - bringing it forward or delaying
- Ensuring full advantage is taken of all available exemptions and reliefs
- A review of the use of trusts
- Ensuring the annual exempt allowance is used - £12,300
- Ensuring all available past or current losses are utilised
- Plan in conjunction with tax years for disposals

Tip Four: Inheritance Tax

Everyone has an annual allowance of £3,000 to utilise each tax year. Any unused allowance from the previous year, can be brought forward to a current maximum of £6,000.

A person can make as many gifts of £250 per individual per tax year as they wish - free of IHT. This is particularly useful for small gifts on birthdays etc.

For individuals who have income that is surplus to their day to day needs, it may also be appropriate for regular gifts to be made out of that surplus income. An example would be the payment of a life assurance policy premium, written in trust to provide for an eventual IHT liability.

Currently in Government, an all-party group is reviewing the possibilities of scrapping all these small allowances, and replacing them with a single Annual Gift Allowance - of a rumoured £30,000. Watch this space for updates.

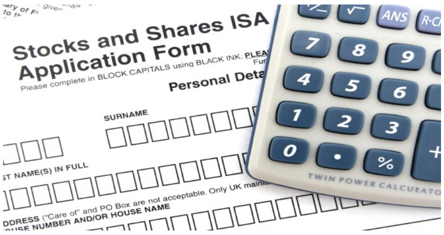
Tip Five: Savings and Investments

Married couples/civil partners each have individual allowances of £500 or £1,000 for personal savings interest. Ensure capital in banks and building societies is appropriately spread to utilise these amounts, and the £2,000 dividend allowance.

The 0% starting rate band for savings income of £5,000 is available on top of the dividend and personal savings allowance. It reduces by £1 for £1 on all non savings income over the personal allowance, so in 2020/21 you would not be able to take advantage of this starting rate band if your income/earnings/ pension exceeds £17,500.

ISA's and JISA's

The annual subscription allowance for Adult ISA's is £20,000; and for Junior ISA's (JISA's) £9,000 per individual. These are 'use it or lose it' allowances and cannot be carried forward from unused previous years. Use investment ISA's only – NOT Cash ISA's from banks or building societies.



Investment Bonds

Issued by life assurance companies only (do not confuse with a 'bond' from a bank or building society) investment bonds can deliver valuable tax deferment. Note the word deferment - Investment Bonds do not eliminate tax, neither are they tax free but used correctly can be valuable planning tools for future years when an individual's tax rates may be lower.

Pensions

If you have not made pension contributions and need to catch up, the carry forward provisions allow previously unused allowances to be brought forward from a maximum of three years previous. This means that April 2021 is the last opportunity to carry forward a £40,000 allowance from the 2017/18 tax year.

Making pension contributions is not only tax efficient, but it can also help high earners gain back part or all their personal allowance when overall earnings are over £125,000 per annum. Currently tax relief at the taxpayer's highest marginal rate is available on all personal contributions, and Owners/Directors should remember that 'the Company' can make very tax effective contributions on your behalf as well.

Individuals should consider making a net pension contribution of up to £2,880 (£3,600 gross) for members of family or children each year, who do not ordinarily have relevant income. The difference in the figures above - £720 – is added to the contribution of £2,880 via direct tax relief and is a significant benefit paid directly into the pension scheme of choice, and substantially boosts early pension savings.

And The Nominations Are.......

We find the most commonly missed areas of proper financial planning are the simplest to achieve. What we mean by this is making sure that the correct people are nominated to receive the applicable benefit, in the event of your death.

Nomination One: Employee Benefits

If you have 'Death in Service' benefits from your employment - usually a multiple of your salary paid as a lump sum - have you correctly nominated who is to receive this payment, as the beneficiary?

The process is a simple form, naming your beneficiary(s), that is lodged mainly with the employee benefit provider or HR department. By ensuring this nomination is up to date the benefit providers (usually a life assurance company) can quickly and accurately pay out the benefits due, when most needed. You will be surprised by how many people do not review this, for example following divorce. The payment due is tax free and is made outside of the deceased person's estate for Inheritance Tax purposes. So make sure that the form is filled in with the correct nomination.

Nomination Two: Pensions

Like the previous nomination, pension schemes are often missed when it comes to nominating beneficiaries. Often people accumulate several pension schemes during their working lifetime, and each one should be informed of the correct nomination of beneficiary which can include spouses/civil partners, children, and others. We very often find that perhaps whilst a current employment pension benefit may carry the correct nomination, pensions from previous employment may not have been updated to accommodate a change in employment or circumstances. If this is an issue, because of long ago employment or pension no longer existing in its original format, then perhaps a review of potential pension consolidation could alleviate the problem, so that a single nomination on one consolidated scheme ensures benefits going to the right place.

Pensions schemes are written under UK Trust Law and therefore sit outside an individual's estate for IHT purposes. However, there may be potential income tax liabilities upon the benefits receivable, depending on the circumstances of the member's death. So again, review those previous, and indeed any current nominations to ensure the benefits are correctly directed. Trustees and administrators have 'discretion' over payment of pension benefits, so a direction from a nomination of beneficiaries form completed by the member, will ensure the Trustees discretion is utilised correctly.

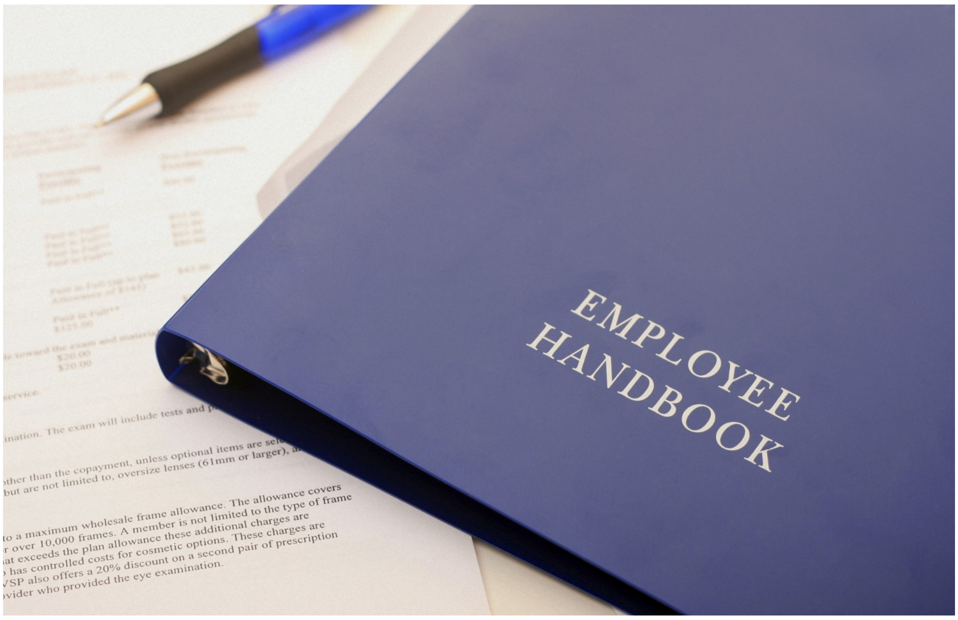
Nomination Three: Life Assurance Contracts

Do you have any individual life assurance contracts for liabilities such as mortgage or debt? If so, is the contract written in Trust for your beneficiaries?

Many people ignore or are unaware of the effect a life assurance claim can have on an individual's estate if not written in Trust. For example, if a single life, life assurance policy is claimed following death, unless the contract is written in Trust, the proceeds will count as part of the individual's estate. Therefore, on death, it would be subject to the usual legal processes of Probate for example, before the beneficiaries could receive the value. Delays can be long and the beneficiaries may need to settle expenses prior to Probate being granted. By writing the policy into Trust, which can be done with both new and existing policies, the life assurance contract sits outside of the individual's estate and is therefore not subject to IHT assessment. As such it is therefore not included in the overall estate value. This process delivers the right amount of money, to the right people, at the right time. Check your life assurance contracts today and ensure your beneficiaries receive any payment due, tax efficiently and at the right time.

Summary

These are simple and easy things to check and indeed implement on our ongoing path of financial planning. As always if there is anything contained in this publication you wish to discuss or clarify, then please contact us.



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The Premier Partnership Limited
Your Family Office

HOLISTIC FINANCIAL & RETIREMENT PLANNING
LIFE & PROTECTION
CASH FLOW PLANNING

JARGON FREE

TECHNOLOGICALLY DRIVEN CLIENT OFFERING

DIGITAL SIGNATURES

CLIENT EXPERIENCE

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS AND PORTFOLIOS
DEDICATED SERVICE TEAM
LOW COST FUNCTIONAL PLATFORM

NEWSLETTERS, BLOGS & INVESTMENT REPORTS

THE WEALTH HUB - ONLINE PORTAL
VALUATIONS
SECURE MESSAGING
DOCUMENT SHARING

LET'S TALK

Communication on your terms

All of our communications are designed and created to be delivered in various formats. Some clients like hard copy documents in front of them, others prefer more digital routes; all of which we can accomodate.

Newsletters

Each quarter we design and create a newsletter for our clients, nothing is bought in from an external source. Our newsletters are created with our clients in mind, with the intention of providing useful articles and sharing relevant research findings.

Blog - perfect for on the go

Available through our app with alerts to keep you up to date with all the latest news you need to know about. Our blogs are written by the team with our clients in mind.

Website and App

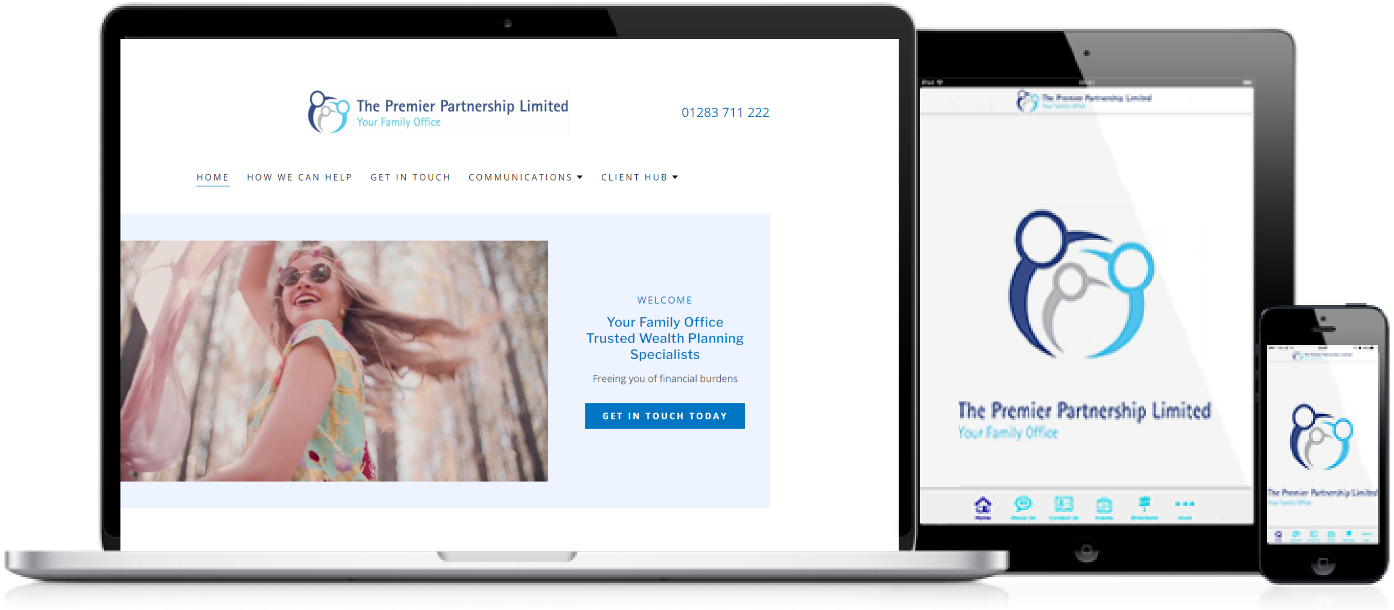
Our refreshed website is designed to be easy to navigate, yet extremely comprehensive. Everything can be found in one place including the blog, newsletters and investment reports.

Investment Report

Created inhouse on a monthly basis to keep you in the know about investments and other important information.

Portal - New Release!

Send and receive secure messages through our portal. The portal contains information on your Wealth. View and obtain up to date valuations and easily locate important documents such as; legal, tax, wills and probate



We have always been committed to delivering high quality communications, tailored to your preferences. These are detailed on the left-hand side of this page.

The main feedback we get from clients is how well we communicate important information to them, and we want to improve our communication further by investing more into our various channels.

Building on our commitment to client service we have introduced a client portal which we feel significantly enhances our client communication and the services we provide.

We want to encourage all of our clients to keep in touch with us on a regular basis through as many channels of communication that work for them. Please get in touch to discuss those communications which you'd like to receive, and we will put everything in place to deliver them to you on your terms.

As always the team and advisers are here and more than happy to to catch up by phone or letter if you prefer.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries

Enquiries@premierpartnership.co.uk
01283 711 222

Introducing Our Client Portal

We are very pleased to introduce our client portal. Designed with you in mind, the portal contains information and documentation that is both relevant and specific to you. It can be accessed through a mobile, tablet, laptop or desktop.

The portal is easy to navigate and provides a secure line of two-way communication between you and your team in the office.

The portal allows us to provide you with an up-to-date system that contains your portfolio valuations. In addition you can use it to store securely sensitive documentation that forms part of your legacy and will help those managing your estate.

The financial services industry is highly paper based, and in our efforts to operate as a greener firm we see the digital delivery of client information playing a key role. This system facilitates the delivery of a truly digital service which is supported by your adviser and the team.

Documents can be completed online and signed via digital signature. We understand flexibility is key and there are clients who prefer paper. So that option remains. We hope however you will embrace this new technology with us and the benefits it provides.

We will continue to release new content through our blogs, investments reports, newsletters, webinars and videos - so stay tuned.

Consolidated Wealth

The portal has been designed to provide our clients with a complete and consolidated view of their wealth. This could include pensions, investments, properties, protection and savings accounts. We can even add physical assets such as cars, watches and artwork.

Up to date Portfolio Valuations

Our clients are able to view the overall position of their investments which comes from real time data. They can view where their portfolio is invested and its value. Data is easy to access and made available in a number of formats including charts.

Secure Messaging & Documents

The portal facilitates the ability to send and receive secure messages which can include attachments. Clients can sign and complete their annual review paperwork in the portal using digital signatures. In addition clients can use the portal to store and easily locate important documents such as their Wills.

Guided Tour

Aaron will provide you with a personal demonstration of the system, using your personal data making it relevant to you.

INTERESTED IN THE PORTAL?

We're with you every step of the way and will provide you with a personal and private demonstration of the system. For a demonstration, or if you have specific questions please contact Aaron Richardson. Aaron will set your account up to use the portal.

AARON'S DETAILS:

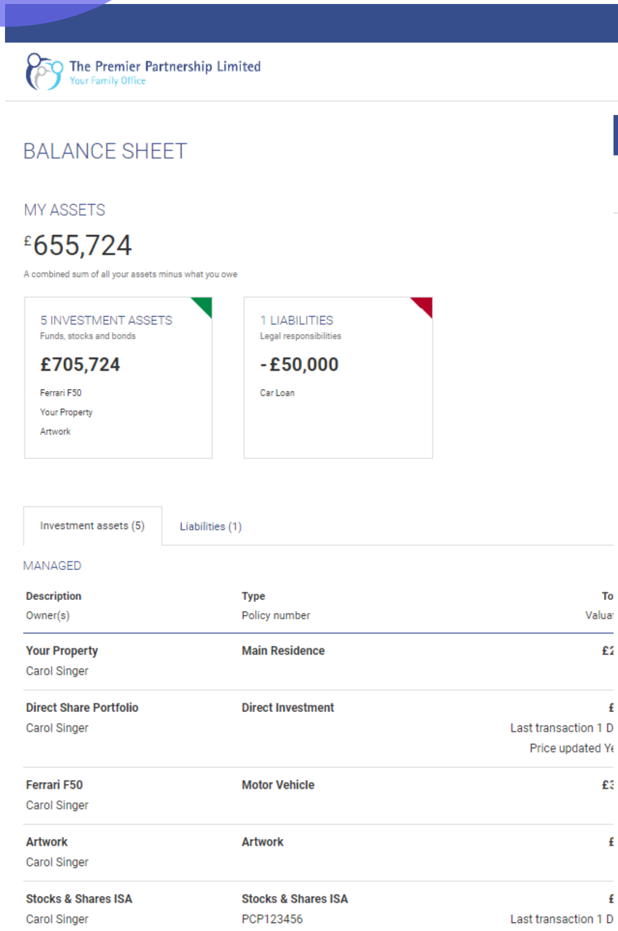
Aaron@premierpartnership.co.uk
01283 711 222

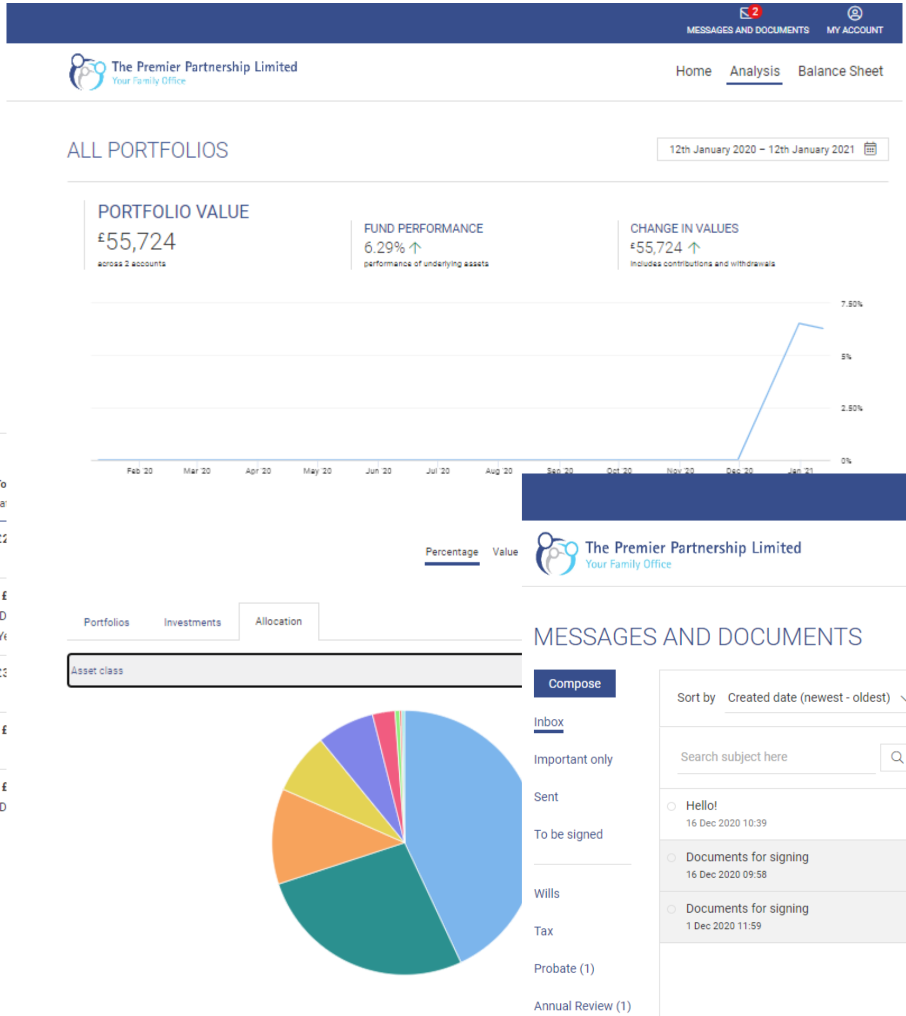
Disclaimer:- Live valuation data can only be provided to clients where their providers has live data links to our system. Not all providers have this.

Take a closer look

Portfolio Breakdown

We give our clients the ability to view graphs and asset allocation charts relating to their portfolios giving them a complete breakdown of their investment holdings.



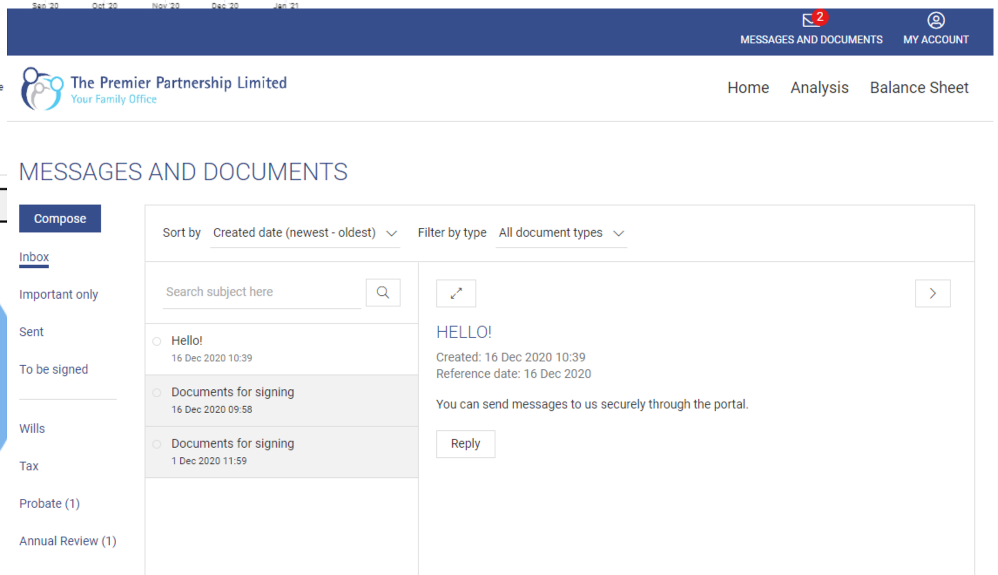


Secure Messaging

Send and receive secure messages with attachments. We also store important documents and other confidential paperwork for easy access. Clients can also sign incomming documents through our portal.

Confidential storage and organisation of:

- Wills
- Probate
- Tax
- Reviews



Balance Sheet

View all your portfolio in one easy screen. Balance sheet displays all of your pension, investments, saving accounts along with other physical assets such as property, jewellery, paintings, cars, and house contents.

Access for beneficiaries

In the event of your death we can arrange access to those responsibile for your estate. This gives peace of mind that the right people will have access to the latest copies of your documentation.

Keeping Your Financials Secure

Our role is, not only to advise you and your family in all aspects of financial planning, tax and legal work but also to help, inform and educate you in respect of keeping your financial affairs safe and secure.

More so now than ever, there are some opportunists (criminals) who see this as a prime time to attack and scam people as more people move to online services.

Scammers are currently adopting old methods to try and obtain data from you. The main methods we are seeing are text messages and phone calls. The messages and calls do seem legitimate but we are asking you to be extremely vigilant at this time. Some of the messages look like they are from local authorities, the Government and in some cases the World Health Organisation(WHO).

The aim of these scammers (call operators) is to try and get you through to someone where they may offer free items, prizes even cash, with the sole aim of obtaining personal details from you. Failing this, if you press a button/key during the call it could connect you to an extremely expensive premium rate phone line. Always be aware that there are no get rich quick schemes, guarantees of investment performance etc.

If you receive anything that you are not expecting or are concerned about its legitimacy, please give us a call.

Some simple rules from gov.uk to protect yourself.

- Reject offers that come out of the blue
- Get the company's name and establish their credentials using the FCA's financial services register
- Beware of adverts on social media channels and paid for/sponsored adverts online
- Do not click links or open emails from senders you don't already know
- Be wary of promised returns that sound too good to be true
- Take your time to make all the checks you need, even if this means turning down an 'amazing deal'
- Do not give out personal details, (bank details, address, existing insurance/pensions/investment details), seek financial guidance or advice before changing your pension arrangements or making investments.

As your advisers, we would never randomly send you investment recommendations or investments switches. We send out information and advice to you only with your permission. For your further reassurance an existing member of the team who you are used to dealing with will always introduce you to a new member of the team, if required.

If ever we decide to change a phone number, email address or website address, we would always notify you ahead of this change.

Sources - Ofcom and gov.uk

We are proud members of the Financial Vulnerability Taskforce

What is the Financial Vulnerability Taskforce? The Financial Vulnerability Taskforce is a newly created independent and inclusive representative body covering the personal finance sector. Supported by the Personal Finance Society, its ultimate purpose is to promote greater understanding of vulnerability, encourage appropriate behaviours and establish good practice amongst personal finance professionals in respect of people who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances.

What is its CHARTER?

At the heart of this initiative is a CHARTER which underpins the work of the Taskforce and sets out how professionals who commit to it are expected to work with customers in vulnerable circumstances. You can be confident when dealing with a financial planning firm or adviser which has made this commitment that they will use their best endeavours to provide you with a service that recognises your unique circumstances and delivers the same outcomes that you would expect if you were not in vulnerable circumstances.

A safe pair of hands when you need them most.

Vulnerability is something that can affect us all; through unexpected events such as illness, loss of employment, divorce or even the sudden acquisition of wealth through inheritance or a lottery win. While some health issues can lead to permanent vulnerability, fortunately in most cases it is a temporary phenomenon. But when it happens, you need to be assured that the professionals who support you fully understand its consequences and how best to continue to provide the highest quality service in these changed circumstance.

What to expect from firms and advisers who commit to the CHARTER

1. Making advice easier to understand. Recognising that many consumers will find it difficult to understand many of the technical and specialist concepts and terms used in financial planning, firms and advisers will go out of their way to explain things in an accessible way. They will only proceed once they are satisfied that their client fully understands the implications of the advice being given.

2. Placing your interests above all else. As a client, at all times your needs will take priority over the financial interests of the firm or adviser and they will always use their best endeavours to provide an appropriate, personalised service for all their clients.

3. Understanding how your circumstances might make you vulnerable. Firms and advisers will understand that vulnerability can be physical, mental, emotional or simply the result of a lack of understanding. Being dynamic in nature, it may be short-lived or longer term, sometimes permanent, transient, recurring or fluctuating over time and may be hidden. Firms and advisers committed to the Charter will act appropriately and with sensitivity in each case.

4. Not making assumptions about you. All clients will be treated fairly, regardless of their identity, age, gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religion or belief and they will guard against making assumptions about you.

5. Not labelling. you Using appropriate language is important. For example, adopters of the Charter recognise that vulnerability relates to circumstances and not to a category of person and will not seek to label you as a vulnerable person but someone who is currently in vulnerable circumstances.

7. Adapting processes and maintaining your confidentiality. If you are considered to be in vulnerable circumstances, you will be encouraged to recognise your vulnerability, safe in the knowledge that business processes and professional services will be adapted so that you do not suffer detriment at any point. You can also expect outcomes to be achieved that are at least as good as for those who are not in vulnerable circumstances. They will also maintain confidentiality and ensure behaviours are fully compliant with all relevant legislation.

8. Ensuring staff are knowledgeable and appropriately trained. Firms and advisers who commit to the Charter will make sure all members of their organisations deal compassionately, empathetically and effectively with those in vulnerable circumstances by raising awareness of vulnerability and by providing appropriate training in supporting those in vulnerable circumstances.

9. Taking appropriate action if you are in harm's way In those rare situations where it is recognised that a client in vulnerable circumstances may be in immediate danger of significant abuse or harm, or may need immediate support, action will be taken to mitigate the risks they face including contacting the appropriate authorities if necessary. Examples of abuse or harm include inappropriate pressure from a third party and scams.

Financial Vulnerability Taskforce

A SAFE PAIR OF HANDS