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Planning for your retirement

Getting ready to slow things down

One of the critical aspects of retirement planning is how you structure your financial affairs to make sure you have sufficient money if and when you stop working.

Making sure you have enough money in retirement to enable you to spend your time the way you want to, doing those things you always intended to do, is likely to be at the heart of planning for your retirement.

TOO COMPLICATED TO THINK ABOUT

People surveyed for BlackRock's Investor Pulse survey stated that their biggest financial priority was 'funding a comfortable retirement'. Yet many people spend more time planning their holiday than their own retirement – perhaps because planning for retirement seems too complicated to think about?

DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START

We are all living longer, the State Pension Age is increasing and pensions legislation is ever-changing. Understandably, we want an active, comfortable retirement but often don't know where to start the savings process. If confusion and a lack of understanding around your retirement needs have led you to put off planning and saving anything, you're not alone. In fact, over half of people in the UK are in the same position.

You can start now though. Planning will help you think about the changes you could make and enable you to take steps towards securing a better future.

STEP 1 – TARGET

KNOW WHAT YOU NEED – SET YOURSELF A TARGET

The closer you are to retirement, the more likely you are to know how much income you will need to cover your outgoings. If you have longer to go until retirement, it is still good to have an idea of what you are aiming for – and you can review this each year as you get closer.

STEP 2 – PLAN

KNOW WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE

The second step is simple – understanding what you have already saved. Knowing what you already have will help you to understand how far you are towards your retirement target. If you have a lot of different pensions, it may be worth considering bringing those all together into one account if appropriate.

STEP 3 – ACTION

- What you need to think about.
- Are you contributing the right amount?
- Are you invested in the right kind of fund?

WHEN CAN YOU REALISTICALLY RETIRE?

Don't put off planning for retirement. By following these simple steps and reviewing your retirement plan at least once a year, you are planning for a better future. ■

HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO ACHIEVING YOUR RETIREMENT GOALS?

We will help you understand your own situation using our expertise, because only then can you start to talk about what you want and need in order to form your retirement goals. When we know these, we can identify how close or not you are to achieving those goals based on your current planning. Don't leave it to chance – contact us to discuss your requirements.

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