



4 STEPS FOR FINANCIAL SECURITY

LIVE | SAVE | INVEST | PROTECT | RETIRE

About Continuum

We believe in the personal approach. We prefer to create a solution tailored to your real goals and objectives.

We believe in creating a three-way Partnership between Continuum, the Adviser, and the client, in an environment where each party can only succeed and grow if the other parties also succeed and grow.

When you become a client you embark on a journey with us, a journey where you are the focal point of everything we do.

We know that our clients are all individuals, and all have their own particular circumstances, priorities, goals and needs. So our service begins with getting to know you and understanding your objectives.

We are independent

The recommendations we make and the products we select are based solely on your needs and objectives.

Personal approach

We can create a tailored financial solution that aims to help you reach your personal goals and save money while you do so.

Award-winning financial services

At Continuum we are proud to have been recognised by our clients and industry experts through a wide range of awards.



Proud to be recognised for our business approach to Environmental, Social Responsibility and Governance matters.

Welcome

We want to provide those we love with financial security. But as the pandemic showed all too clearly good health, and even life itself cannot be taken for granted.

At Continuum we believe that creating a financial plan as a couple needs to include provision for the financial impact of losing a partner.

When both partner's income and assets are vital for the household's financial security, it will inevitably mean financial difficulty for the survivor should either of them die.

Fortunately, with the right financial planning you can minimise the financial problems.

Important information

The information contained in this article is based on the opinion of Continuum and does not constitute financial advice or a recommendation to suitable Protection products or retirement strategy, you should seek independent financial advice before embarking on any course of action.

A pension is a long term investment, the fund value can go down as well as up and this can impact the level of pension benefits available.

The Financial Conduct authority does not regulate Taxation and trust advice & will writing.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

Step 1 – Write your will

Without a will, your assets will be distributed according to intestacy rules. This would mean if you have surviving children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren, your partner will only inherit your personal property up to a set threshold and half of the remainder of your estate. Depending on the size of your estate, this could mean losing their home.

Writing your will should therefore be a priority, especially if you're not married or in a civil partnership. Common-law partners have no automatic legal right to inherit anything at all.

Getting help on the financial side of will writing could mean avoiding tax problems for all concerned.

Step 2– Look at your pension

Your pension may be one of the largest assets you own. Many people are surprised that it is not covered by their will.

Instead, you will need to make your wishes clear to your pension provider to let your partner access the money within your pension.

You should also think about how you will take your pension. You could take an annuity; in return for your pension pot, an annuity can provide a guaranteed income for the rest of your life. A joint annuity is designed for couples and will provide an income so long as either partner lives – but the income provided will be lower.

A drawdown arrangement might offer a more rewarding alternative, and provide greater flexibility to allow a surviving partner to make the financial arrangements they need. You need independent pension advice to ensure your pension can go on providing for your loved ones.

From April 2027 most unused pension funds will be brought within scope of inheritance tax. If you have a significant pension pot, taking advice now about how to structure your withdrawals and nominations before the rules change could make a meaningful difference to what your family receives.

Step 3- Take out a life insurance policy

Life cover is probably the most important step of all. A life insurance policy is designed to pay out a lump sum on death of the life or lives assured, providing your partner with the means to pay off things like the mortgage and help replace your income.

But there are many kinds of life insurance.

In an attempt to keep the premiums to a minimum with a maximum level of cover, (subject to health and meeting underwriting conditions) most of us seem to choose term insurance, which ceases when we reach an agreed age. But we are living longer, and this type of cover may run out. A whole of life policy will cost a little more, but will potentially allow you to provide for your loved ones whatever age you reach.

You also need to ensure that you have the right level of cover. Inflation may mean that a lump sum that was adequate 10 years ago is far from sufficient now.

You might need to include some extra benefits to your life policy, for example Critical illness cover and Long-Term Income Protection cover. In addition, you may need to consider a further type of cover Accident, Sickness and Unemployment. All these types of protection have a part in providing real financial security.

You may need professional help to secure the type and level of cover you need. At Continuum our independent approach means we can search the entire market to get the cover you need at the most suitable price.



Getting help on the financial side of will writing could mean avoiding tax problems for all concerned.

Step 4- Get expert help

Security for your loved ones is simply too important to leave to chance. Expert help with the planning is vital to ensure they have the financial future you want them to have, whatever happens to you.

At Continuum we can help you look at every step - and ensure that you and your family have the arrangements you need in place.

Financial planning needs to match your circumstances and your age - because as the years go by our priorities and financial goals change dramatically.

Bespoke financial planning

We have vast experience of building long-term wealth so you can be confident that your investment strategy is designed just for you and your needs.

Call us on **0345 643 0770** or book a free consultation without any obligations at **mycontinuum.co.uk**





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Registered address: As Above. Registered in England and Wales. OC393363

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