

A plan for all seasons

We know planning for the future can feel daunting and at times complicated. But with our checklist, we can help you take a real look at your plans from all angles and make sure they're on the right track for retirement.

1. How will you keep a spring in your step?

Think about what retirement really means for you. Do you want to work fewer hours, or use your time to volunteer? Do you want to retire completely and stop working? How will you spend your time? It's important to consider all the possibilities to ensure you enjoy your retirement – from keeping your mind sharp to keeping physically active.

[Find out more about making the most of retirement](#)

2. Sketch your pension portrait

When planning, it's important to have a clear picture of how much you'll need to live on in retirement. To help with this, the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association have developed the **Retirement Living Standards (RLS)** so you can get an idea of what your retirement savings can achieve. Use the RLS to help you understand what retirement could look like at three different levels (minimum, moderate, and comfortable), and **what kind of lifestyle you want in retirement.**

[Visit our RLS page](#)

3. Misplaced some of your precious retirement fund?

According to the Association of British Insurers (ABI), as many as **1 in 25** could be missing out on pensions worth, on average, **£9,500** each. Could one be yours? Finding a lost pension could transform your retirement. So, get tracing.

[Find lost pensions](#)

4. Remember the State Pension

The amount you receive in State Pension depends on when you claim it and your National Insurance record. To get the **full new State Pension** (£203.85 for 2023/24), you need to have at least **35 qualifying years** on your National Insurance record if you don't have a record before April 2016.

[Find out more about the State Pension](#)

[Check your State Pension forecast](#)

5. Choose how you take your pension wisely

There are various ways you can access a defined contribution (DC) pension pot, from age 55. Regardless of which option you select, you can usually take up to **25% of your pot tax-free**. Find out more about your options on the Resource Centre. Alternatively, request a free, no-obligation **Pension Potential** pack showing your personalised options for taking your pension savings.

[Visit Resource Centre](#)

[Visit Pension Potential](#)

6. Don't let them rain on your parade

If you're looking at options for taking your pension savings, this could make you more vulnerable to **pension scammers**, who will try and get you to transfer your savings to them. They may promise high returns and 'unmissable' opportunities – but **don't be fooled**.

[Find out more about scams](#)

[Visit ScamSmart](#)

7. Care doesn't have to be a conundrum

Planning care, for yourself or a loved one, can at times feel daunting and complicated. But there's information and support out there to help.

Carers UK has lots of information, advice and support for carers. Or if you're thinking about arranging care for yourself, you can find information and advice at **Age UK**.

[Visit Carers UK](#)

[Visit Age UK](#)

8. Don't forget what you leave behind

It's important to fill in an **expression of wish form** and keep it up to date. You can name who you'd like to receive any money left in your pension pot when you die. It's also important to **create a will** to make sure your money and possessions go to the people you want them to. And, you may want to set up a lasting power of attorney as well.

[Find out more about protecting your loved ones](#)

Remember, if you need further help and support, you have access to a wealth of information on our [Resource Centre](#)

This checklist gives an overview only; it does not provide specific advice. It is based on our understanding of tax regulations for the 2023/24 tax year which may change in the future. Aspire to Retire is a trading name of Punter Southall Defined Contribution Consulting Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Our Financial Services Register reference number is: 121328. Registered office: 11 Strand London WC2N 5HR. Registered in England and Wales No 0873463 Ref: 2023/453; Exp: 5/4/24