oyster

Financial Planning

BECAUSE THE WORLD IS...

GUIDE TO

SELF-INVESTED PERSONAL PENSION SCHEMES

A flexible, tax-efficient way of saving for your long-term future

NOVEMBER 2021

Oyster Financial Planning Limited
52 Pylewell Road Hythe Southampton SO45 6AQ
Tel: 023 80848410 **Email:** enquiries@oysterfinancialplanning.co.uk **Web:** www.oysterfinancialplanning.co.uk

Oyster Financial Planning Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

GUIDE TO

SELF-INVESTED PERSONAL PENSION SCHEMES

A flexible, tax-efficient way of saving for your long-term future

Welcome to our *Guide to Self-Invested Personal Pension Schemes*. Saving for your retirement is one of the longest and biggest financial commitments you will ever make. Imagine you are retiring today. Have you thought about how you are going to financially support yourself, and potentially your family too, with your current pension savings? If appropriate to your situation a Self-Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) could be an option to consider as part of your overall retirement planning.

A SIPP may be appropriate for you if you're confident making your own investment decisions and managing your pension payments against the relevant allowances.

HOW DO I KNOW IF A SIPP IS RIGHT FOR ME?

A SIPP could be right for you if you are looking for a wider choice of investment options and have sufficient knowledge and experience of investing to make your own investment decisions or have a trusted adviser to help you make these decisions.

A SIPP provides a range and flexibility of investment options that make it one of the most flexible methods of saving for retirement. You can invest money into your SIPP up until you reach age 75, and start withdrawing money from it as early as age 55 (57 from 2028).

As with all defined contribution schemes, the amount that you will have available when you retire depends on the contributions that you, and any employers, have made and how your investments perform over time.

If appropriate, almost anyone under the age of 75 in the UK could open and make tax-relievable contributions into a SIPP. Parents can even open a Junior SIPP for their children. SIPPs are not suitable for every investor and other types of pensions may be more appropriate.

As with all pensions, SIPPs provide favourable tax treatment. Once in a SIPP wrapper, your savings will grow free from UK income tax and capital gains tax.

DO THE SAME TAX AND CONTRIBUTION RULES APPLY TO A SIPP AS OTHER PENSIONS?

A SIPP enables you to save and grow your money so that you can see your retirement dreams come to life. They are governed by the same tax and contribution rules as other pensions. Anyone living in the UK who pays into a SIPP is eligible to claim pension tax relief, including low-income earners.

Tax relief is paid on your pension contributions at the highest rate of income tax you pay. Basic rate taxpayers receive 20% pension tax relief. Higher rate taxpayers can claim 40% pension tax relief and additional rate taxpayers can claim 45% pension tax relief.

In Scotland, income tax is banded differently, and pension tax relief is applied in a slightly different way. Starter rate taxpayers pay 19% income tax but get 20% pension tax relief. Basic rate taxpayers pay 20% income tax and get 20% pension tax relief. Intermediate rate taxpayers pay 21% income tax and can claim 21% pension tax relief. Higher rate taxpayers pay 41% income tax and can claim 41% pension tax relief. Top rate taxpayers pay 46% income tax and can claim 46% pension tax relief.

A Lifetime Allowance applies to the total of all the pensions you have, including the value of pensions promised through any defined benefit schemes you belong to, but excluding your State Pension.

The Lifetime Allowance for the tax year 2021/22 is £1,073,100. When you wish to withdraw your retirement funds, or at age 75 if you have not drawn benefits, if the total value exceeds this limit then you will be liable to a tax charge on the amount above the Lifetime Allowance limit.

> “If appropriate, almost anyone under the age of 75 in the UK could open and make tax-relievable contributions into a SIPP.”

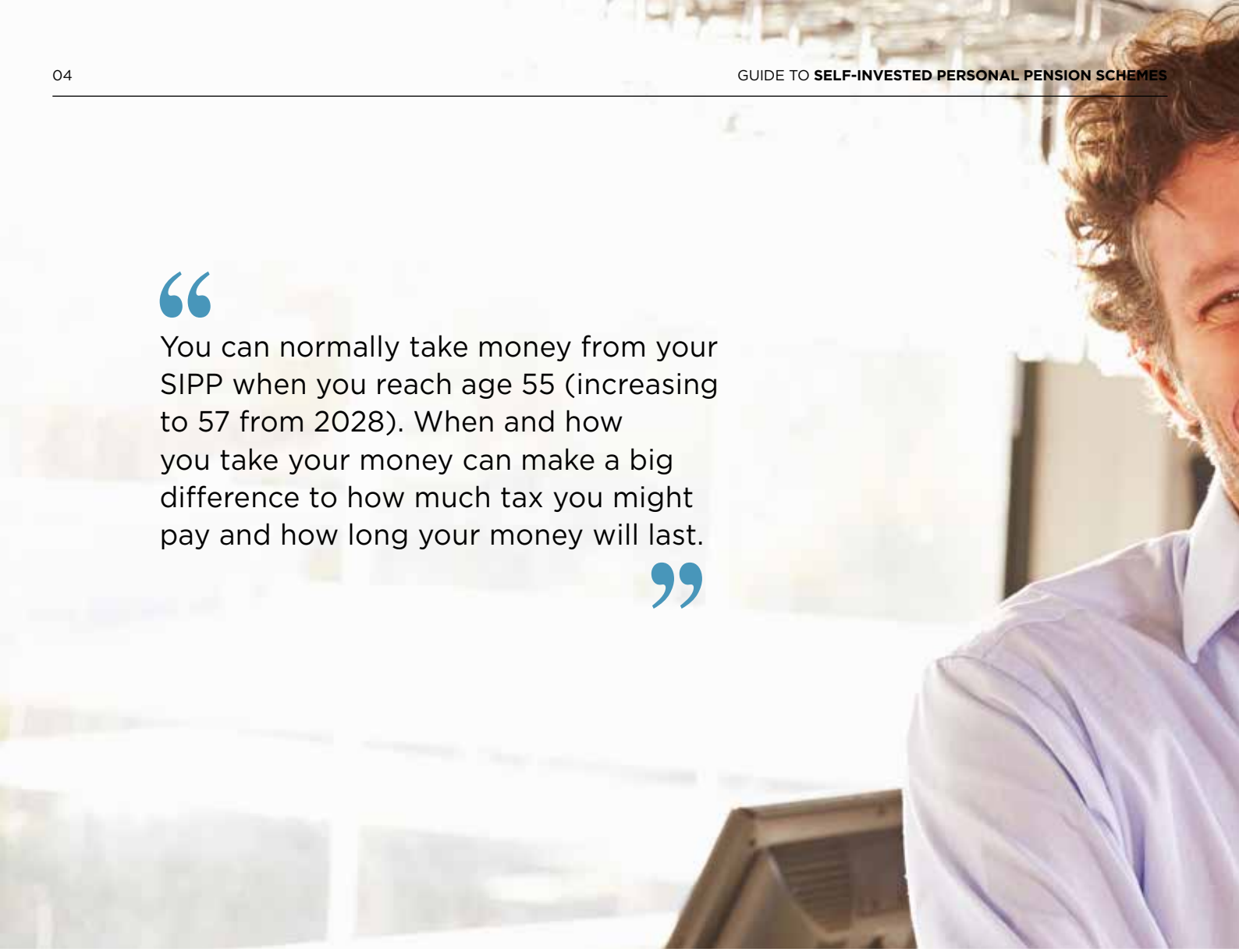
IS TAX RELIEF ON A SIPP SUBJECT TO THE ANNUAL ALLOWANCE?

You may contribute up to the value of your earned income to a pension in any tax year. This is subject to the Annual Allowance, which is currently £40,000 for the tax year 2021/22. If your earnings are over £200,000 you may have a reduced Annual Allowance.

The Annual Allowance is a gross figure, meaning that when calculating how much you may add to your pension, you should consider your own personal contributions, your employer's contributions, any other contributions and tax relief. If you exceed the Annual Allowance you may have to pay a tax charge.

If you earn more than the Annual Allowance, and you have not contributed up to the full allowance in the previous three tax years, you may be able to make a larger contribution in the current tax year, using 'carry forward'.

This enables you to make use of any unused portion of the Annual Allowance from the previous three years. Regardless of the amount of unused allowance you may have available, you may not contribute more to a pension than you have earned in the current tax year.



> You can normally take money from your SIPP when you reach age 55 (increasing to 57 from 2028). When and how you take your money can make a big difference to how much tax you might pay and how long your money will last.

SHOULD I CONSIDER CONSOLIDATING MY PENSIONS INTO ONE SIPP PLAN?

During your working life you may have built up pension pots with several employers. This can often make it hard to keep track of them all and manage them well. For simplicity, it may make sense to consolidate your pensions into one plan.

Modern flexible pension plans offer benefits that older plans do not, for example, flexi-access drawdown of your pension, or access to an income for your loved ones on your death.

Having several pension plans may mean you have more paperwork to keep track of. You may also have a range of different investments that you will need to review and make decisions about. If you have a few pension plans, including some older ones that you may not have checked for some time, it is a good idea to review the charges. Higher charges can eat away at any investment returns.

There is no guarantee you will be better off as a result of transferring, so you should take professional financial advice before you move a pension plan, to make sure you understand all the implications.

WHAT FLEXIBILITY AT RETIREMENT DO I HAVE TO TAKE MONEY FROM MY SIPP?

You can normally take money from your SIPP when you reach age 55 (increasing to 57 from 2028). When and how you take your money can make a big difference to how much tax you might pay and how long your money will last.

There are different ways you can take money from your SIPP. Keep in mind that you can choose one option or a combination of options.

ANNUITIES – GUARANTEED INCOME FOR LIFE OR FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD

Annuities enable you to exchange your SIPP fund for a guaranteed income for life or a specific period. They were once the most common pension option to fund retirement.

You can normally withdraw up to 25% of your SIPP as a one-off tax-free lump sum, then convert the rest into a taxable income for life via an annuity. There are different lifetime annuity options and features to choose from that affect how much income you may receive. You can also choose to provide an income for life for a dependent or other beneficiary after you die.

The amount you receive depends on how long the provider expects you to live, how many years they'll have to pay you and any additional benefits you have, such as a guaranteed payment period or index linking.

FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT INCOME – FLEXI-ACCESS DRAWDOWN

When it comes to assessing your options, flexibility is the main attraction offered by flexi-access drawdown plans, which allow you to access your money while leaving it invested, meaning your funds can continue to grow.

This option normally means you take up to 25% of your SIPP as a tax-free lump sum or a series of smaller lump sums. The remaining funds stay invested to provide you with a taxable income.

You may draw your income as a regular amount or simply draw funds as and when you need. Your investments need to be managed carefully because, unlike a lifetime annuity, your income isn't guaranteed for life.

SMALL CASH SUM WITHDRAWALS – TAX-FREE – UNCRYSTALLISED FUND PENSION LUMP SUMS (UFPLS)

If you decide not to draw your pension commencement lump sum as a separate sum, you may opt to take your income as a series of Uncrystallised Fund Pension Lump Sums. Each time you withdraw an amount from the SIPP, the first 25% taken is tax-free, whilst the remaining 75% is taxable income. The rest of your SIPP remains invested until you need to withdraw more cash.

COMBINATION – MIX AND MATCH

It may suit you better to use a combination of the options outlined above. For example, you might want to use some of your savings to purchase an annuity to cover the essentials, for example, rent, mortgage or household bills, with the rest placed in flexi-access drawdown so that you may decide how much you wish, and can afford, to withdraw and when.

Alternatively, you might want more flexibility in the early years of retirement and more security in the later years. If that is the case, this may be a good reason to delay purchasing an annuity until later in life.

CAN I USE MY SIPP AS PARTIAL SECURITY AGAINST A LOAN TO BORROW MONEY?

SIPP lending or borrowing is when your SIPP is used as partial security against a loan to borrow more money and increase its investment capacity. There are numerous rules around SIPP lending and you should take professional financial advice if you are considering this option. ■

WILL I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY IN THE FUTURE TO ACHIEVE THE LIFESTYLE I WANT?

It's important to think about how much money you might need in the future and whether you'll have enough to give you the lifestyle you want. Need a helping hand with your retirement plans? To start a conversation, or to find out more, please get in touch us for further information.

A PENSION IS A LONG-TERM INVESTMENT NOT NORMALLY ACCESSIBLE UNTIL AGE 55 (57 FROM APRIL 2028 UNLESS THE PLAN HAS A PROTECTED PENSION AGE).

THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS MADE WITHIN A SELF-INVESTED PENSION SCHEME CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE AND YOU MAY END UP WITH A FUND AT RETIREMENT THAT'S WORTH LESS THAN YOU INVESTED.

YOUR PENSION INCOME COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED BY THE INTEREST RATES AT THE TIME YOU TAKE YOUR BENEFITS.

THE TAX IMPLICATIONS OF PENSION WITHDRAWALS WILL BE BASED ON YOUR INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, TAX LEGISLATION AND REGULATION WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE. YOU SHOULD SEEK ADVICE TO UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS AT RETIREMENT.

TIME TO GET BACK TO DREAMING ABOUT YOUR RETIREMENT. NOT DREADING IT?

Making the right choices now could make a big difference to how much money you have in the future, and saving into a pension plan could help you achieve the lifestyle you would like.

You're never too young to save for retirement. To discuss your options, please contact us for further information – we look forward to hearing from you.

This guide is for your general information and use only, and is not intended to address your particular requirements. The content should not be relied upon in its entirety and shall not be deemed to be, or constitute, advice. Although endeavours have been made to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No individual or company should act upon such information without receiving appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of their particular situation. We cannot accept responsibility for any loss as a result of acts or omissions taken in respect of the content. Thresholds, percentage rates and tax legislation may change in subsequent Finance Acts. Levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation are subject to change and their value depends on the individual circumstances of the investor. The value of your investments can go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invested. All figures relate to the 2021/22 tax year, unless otherwise stated.

Published by Goldmine Media Limited, Rivers Lodge, West Common, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JD. Content copyright protected by Goldmine Media Limited 2021. Unauthorised duplication or distribution is strictly forbidden.

goldmine media