



Making the correct decisions when you come to retire are so important and obtaining the right advice is vital. At McCrea Financial Services we have a huge level of experience and expertise in this area to help you make the best decisions for you and your family.

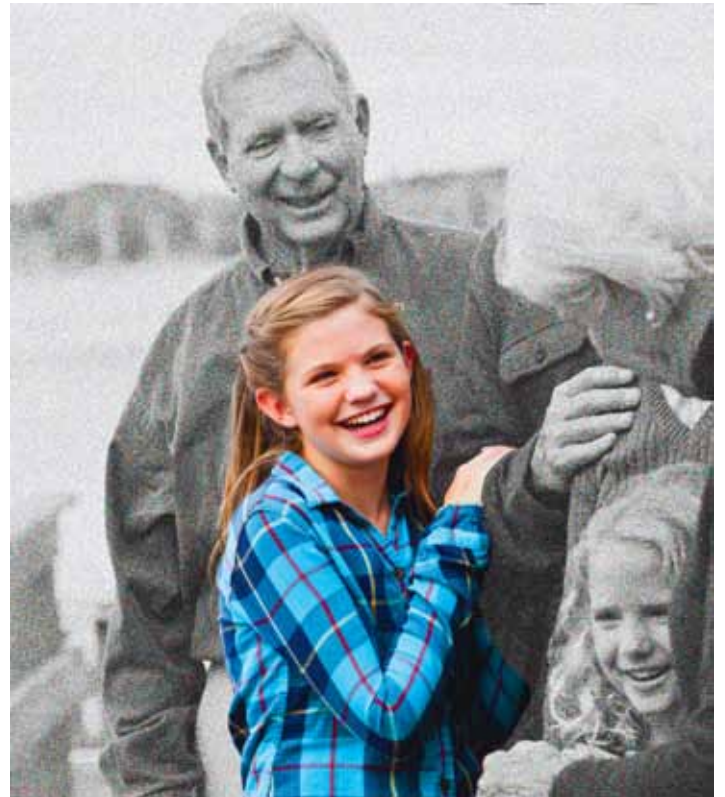
Traditionally, most individuals have simply taken their pension income from the company that their pension has been saved with. However, in many cases, this means you get a poor deal.

At retirement, there are many different options that should be considered that can make the difference between a basic or comfortable retirement.

Annuities

An annuity is a guarantee of income for the rest of your life provided by an annuity provider. For standard annuities, there is a highly competitive market that we can access for you to ensure that you obtain the highest level of income. A Financial Conduct Authority review estimated that 80% of people would benefit from taking their annuity income from a provider different from the one they built their pension with.

There are a variety of options you can take if you buy an annuity. These include ongoing income for your spouse/partner should you die first, inflation proofing and different guarantee periods.



Every client is different and we pride ourself on spending time with you to ensure we understand your needs.

We can help you decide which is the most appropriate for you. Should you have a health condition, there is the potential to obtain a higher rate of income and again we can ensure that you receive the highest level of income possible structured in a way that suits your circumstances.

Flexible Options

Whilst annuities will provide you with a guaranteed income for life, it has become more popular for people to take their pension benefits in a more flexible manner. This has been due to a number of factors and annuity rates have reduced over recent years as they are linked to interest rates/gilt yields and increased life expectancy.

More people retire gradually' and work part time for a number of years prior to fully retiring; therefore many people require flexibility over the income they receive.

The most flexible form of accessing pension benefits is by accessing Income/Flexible Drawdown. There is a great deal of flexibility offered including the option to take the Tax Free Lump Sum (generally 25%) of the pension without accessing any income. This has been popular for individuals who wished to access funds for a variety of purposes (paying off mortgage/helping children buy a house) but it is extremely important that advice is sought as this will have an effect on the income available in retirement. In addition, the remaining pension fund will remain invested and taking advice on how this is structured and the level



of risk you take is extremely important.

There is also flexibility in the level of income that a client can access from their pension fund. From April 2015, individuals aged 55 or over are able to access their entire fund whenever they want. However, advice is vital as most individuals will require their pension fund to fund their retirement for the rest of their

lives. In addition, there can be significant tax issues as only a portion of a pension fund (normally 25%) can be accessed tax free. The remainder is generally taxed as income.

The levels, bases and reliefs from taxation will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor and may be subject to future change.

The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. You may not get back the amount originally invested.

REVIEWS

Whilst the flexibility offered can be a significant benefit to individuals, it makes it even more important people obtain regular reviews of their retirement planning. This would focus on a number of areas such as the investment make-up and risk of the pension fund, ongoing income requirements, and taking benefits in a tax efficient manner.

Overall, it is imperative individuals obtain advice regarding their retirement plans and places even greater emphasis on making the right decision.

Why McCreas?

At McCreas we pride ourselves on being independent, professional, approachable and committed to providing a first class service to our clients. **We pride ourselves on NOT being just another firm of Independent Financial Advisers.**

We are :

INDEPENDENT - not tied to any particular company, bank or insurance company. We are authorised, regulated and approved by the FCA.

PROFESSIONAL - the staff at McCreas have many years of experience and all McCreas employees have Personal Development Plans which include improving their technical knowledge through CII Examinations .

COMMITTED - Our business is all about looking after you, the client - each client has a designated Independent Financial Adviser and support allowing you to build a professional and personal relationship over the years.

A GREAT TEAM - dedicated professional advisers backed up by superb administrators with sophisticated systems allowing us to provide a quality personalised service to you the client!

How are we different?

How many IFAs work and encourage their staff to develop their skills that they gain unique awards ? - We were the first IFA in the UK to achieve GOLD standard in Investors in People.

How many IFAs appreciate that when looking after peoples financial affairs it is about building trust and working together for decades not weeks.

How many IFAs obtain the majority of their new clients from referrals from happy existing customers who are comfortable passing their friends and families on to a firm they can trust.

How many other IFAs spend time and effort working for, running events and raising funds for charity?

How many IFAs do you know support and sponsor local sportsmen and women and help promising children in sport to achieve their goals?

Most of all, we care - about the important things in life, and about you - our clients.