

Financial Planning Newsletter

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Planning for your financial future

Welcome to the very first edition of our Financial Planning Newsletter. In these newsletters I'll regularly be sharing our thoughts on key topics that the financial planning team here at Equilibrium use for our clients. These will cover all different areas we help clients with, such as tax and estate planning and intergenerational planning.

What is financial planning?

Ultimately financial planning can help you to create and work towards your financial goals, both over the short and long term. Only when you consider what you really

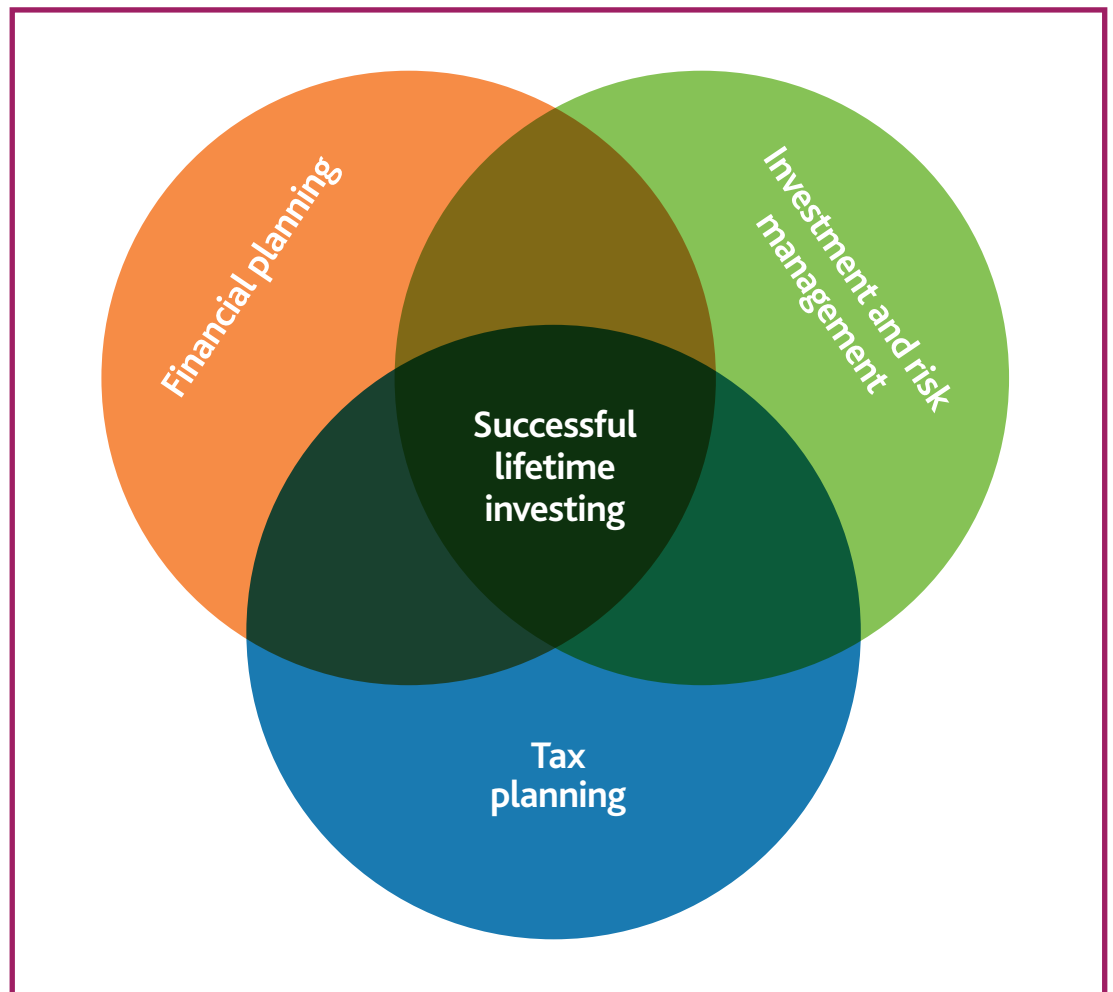
want can you set realistic goals and create a robust financial plan to achieve them.

Who are financial planners?

Our role as financial planners is to ensure that a plan is in place to enable you to achieve your aims, objectives and dreams, whilst simultaneously avoiding your fears and nightmares, such as the money running out before you do! If you do not have a plan, how do you know what you will need to be able to enjoy life? How can you judge success?

To be successful with your investments over a lifetime you need the three following ingredients: financial planning, tax planning and investment management. It is only when these things mix together that you can achieve the objectives. As a financial planner we

should captain the ship to navigate through all of these areas. As with any journey, there will be obstacles to get around and problems we have not yet thought of, hence the need to ensure there are regular reviews to check we are still on course.



Why a financial plan?

To charter the journey effectively our role is to ensure that we not only create a bespoke plan but also keep everything on track as the terrain changes all of the time. It is important that your plan can be nimble and adaptable. By terrain I mean the investment climate,

your personal and family circumstances and also the ever-changing world of tax legislation.

Client testimonial

Our Financial adviser and all the team listen to our individual needs and act in a friendly but professional and competent manner.

Martyn Pendlebury



Yes, but how do you create a financial plan?

To us, financial planning is all about understanding where a client wants to go and then work out the growth rate required to take them from A to B, over the right time horizon and using the right vehicles to get them there.

One of the ways we begin making a personalised and bespoke plan for clients is through a system called Voyant. This clever piece of software can help clients understand their financial future. Maybe you want to help the kids on the property ladder with a lump sum in 5 years' time for instance? Voyant might be able to help you see the future more clearly to define your objectives.

When used in collaboration with a financial planner, Voyant can help to bring financial plans to life in a clear and visually engaging way. It helps present complicated financial planning calculations in a way that is easy to understand and to access. Used collaboratively between client and adviser the system can be a tool to suggest different options for investing assets, based on a client's current circumstances, financial goals and attitude to risk, whilst taking into account the effect of potential market falls. To find out more about Voyant and how it works you can watch a video on the software [here](#).



Taxing thoughts

When creating a financial plan, tax planning can often be one of the most neglected areas. It is an area that we often we come across where portfolios are not structured in the most tax efficient way. If a financial planner can minimise the drag of tax against the annual investment returns, the investment portfolio will not have to take as much investment risk to achieve the chosen objectives.

In my view, although the UK has possibly the most complicated tax system in the world, when it comes to tax

on investments, it is possibly one of the most generous. Tax planning should be simple and straight forward, by avoiding complex strategies and utilising available tax allowances we can create an achievable plan for our clients

Clearly, tax should be one of the founding pillars of a financial plan (although not at the expense of a sensible investment strategy). Keep your eyes peeled for the next edition of our financial planning newsletter where we will go into more detail on the tax planning and how this should be considered a key component of your financial plan...

Read more online

For more information about financial planning visit the financial planning section on our website: www.eqllp.co.uk/your-money/financial-planning

