

Product guide for self-directed investors

# An introduction to the Cofunds Pension Account provided by Curtis Banks

A straightforward way to plan for your retirement



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## **It's important that you understand how the plan works and what the risks are before you buy.**

Before applying for the Cofunds Pension Account you should also read the following documents. Your intermediary can provide these to you on request:

- Your Personal Illustration
- Key Features of the Cofunds Pension Account
- Cofunds Pension Account Charges Sheet
- Aegon Platform key information document
- Aegon Platform terms and conditions and referenced documents
- Key Investor Information Document (KIID) for the fund(s) you have chosen to invest in.

If you have any questions about the Cofunds Pension Account, please speak to your intermediary.

Any technical terms used in this document are explained in the glossary on page 25.

# Introduction: A pension plan that puts you in control

**Thanks to your intermediary, you may already use Aegon to administer your ISAs and General Investment Accounts (GIAs). Now there's a flexible way to manage your retirement plans too.**

The Cofunds Pension Account is a pension plan that lets you access a wide range of investment funds within a tax-efficient pension wrapper. It gives you the support of Aegon's services, plus the pension administrative expertise of Curtis Banks.

The Cofunds Pension Account for self-directed investors is available through your intermediary.

You may have heard the term self-directed being referred to as non-advised or execution-only. This means that the service your intermediary (execution-only broker) is providing you with does not include any financial advice.

They may however, provide you with fund research to help you make your own investment decisions.

If you have any questions about the service they're providing you with, please speak to your intermediary.

If you need individual guidance on your retirement planning, you're welcome to seek financial advice as and when required. A financial adviser may charge for their services.

## **Your future. Your pension plan.**

The Cofunds Pension Account is for investors who are confident about managing their pension and making their own investment decisions.

It offers plenty of flexibility – both when you are building up your pension fund and when you want to start taking benefits.

Whether you want to consolidate existing pension plans or need to start taking a retirement income, the Cofunds Pension Account is here to help.

### **To open the plan, you need to be:**

18 or over

Resident in the UK  
(the plan isn't available to US citizens)

Able to invest at least £5,000. This can come from:

- a one-off contribution (including tax relief);
- transfer payments from previous pension plans; or
- a combination of these.

A customer of an intermediary

# The experts behind the plan

**Benefit from the experience of some of the leading names in savings and pensions.**

## **About Aegon UK plc**

Aegon was founded in 1831, and is a global savings and investment provider serving over 30 million customers in over 20 countries. As at August 2018, the total value of assets managed on behalf of savers and investors worldwide was €825 billion.

On 1 January 2017, Cofunds Limited, the UK based investment administration service (platform), became part of Aegon. This product still uses the Cofunds name.

## **Curtis Banks – your pension plan administrator**

Curtis Banks is one of the UK's leading providers and administrators of specialist pension products, primarily Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs). It looks after over 36,000 self-invested plans with £12.3 billion of assets under administration as at 31 December 2017.

Established in 1971 and based in Ipswich, Curtis Banks employs around 300 people and has built an enviable reputation based on its expertise and knowledge of the SIPP market.

Curtis Banks is part of Curtis Banks Group plc.

## You

### It's your responsibility to:

- decide if the plan is right for you;
- decide on your contribution levels;
- decide whether to transfer other pension plan(s) into the Cofunds Pension Account;
- decide your retirement planning aims;
- choose which investment funds to invest in to achieve your retirement aims; and
- regularly review and manage your fund choices and contributions in response to your needs and changing market conditions.

## Your intermediary

### Your intermediary, who does not provide advice, will:

- give you important product information about the plan;
- provide you with a Personal Illustration and associated documents, should you wish to consider applying for the Cofunds Pension Account;
- inform you of your investment fund options;
- answer any questions you have about the plan;
- check your application before it's sent to Aegon; and
- help you buy the plan.

## Aegon

### Aegon

- Provides the investment platform to allow you to buy and sell investments within your plan.
- Deals with all correspondence and enquiries from you and your intermediary about your plan.

## Curtis Banks

### Curtis Banks

#### Provides the plan, which includes:

- setting up the plan and providing the ongoing management of it;
- dealing with all payments in (including claiming tax relief on contributions);
- transferring money to Aegon for investment; and
- paying your pension benefits out.

# Benefits of the Cofunds Pension Account

## 1. Value

Only pay for the product features you use. There are no product charges to set up a Cofunds Pension Account, unless you take benefits from the start.

## 2. Flexibility

Choose how much you invest (subject to minimum contributions and the annual allowance, see page 16) and when, and as with all pensions, you get tax relief on contributions you put in.

## 3. Choice

Select from the Aegon range of collective investment funds and change your fund choice whenever you need to.

## 4. Consolidation

Reducing your number of pension plans, by transferring them to the Cofunds Pension Account, may make your pension portfolio easier to manage.

## 5. Control

Track your pension plan's progress alongside all other investments you hold with Aegon, with online valuations, regular statements and detailed portfolio breakdowns.

## 6. Freedom

As with many other personal pensions, decide how you want to use your pension fund at retirement – including taking a tax-free lump sum, using drawdown or buying an annuity.

**For full details of the retirement options available to you see pages 18-19.**

## 7. Confidence

Aegon and Curtis Banks offer the experience you need to feel confident about your pension planning.

# How the plan works

**Aegon and Curtis Banks have designed the Cofunds Pension Account to be easy to use – whatever your stage of retirement planning.**

## Contributions & transfers

You can invest regular amounts, single contributions or both, see pages 16-17. Contributions can increase, decrease (subject to our minimum), stop and start without penalty. Employers can also contribute. You can also transfer other pension plans to your Cofunds Pension Account, see pages 9-11.

## Attractive tax relief

Like all pensions, the Cofunds Pension Account enjoys tax-favourable treatment. This can be a boost to what you save, see page 14.

## Investment control

The Cofunds Pension Account lets you choose how you invest. You can choose from over 3,400 investment funds provided by over 220 fund managers (as at 31 December 2017) available through Aegon. You can read more about the aims, methods and risks of each fund in the Key Investor Information Document (KIID), or relevant fund specific information for each fund.

Please ask your intermediary for details of available funds and how to access the latest fund KIIDs.

Switching between funds is free of charge. Also, as it's a pension plan, your chosen funds can potentially enjoy tax-efficient growth.

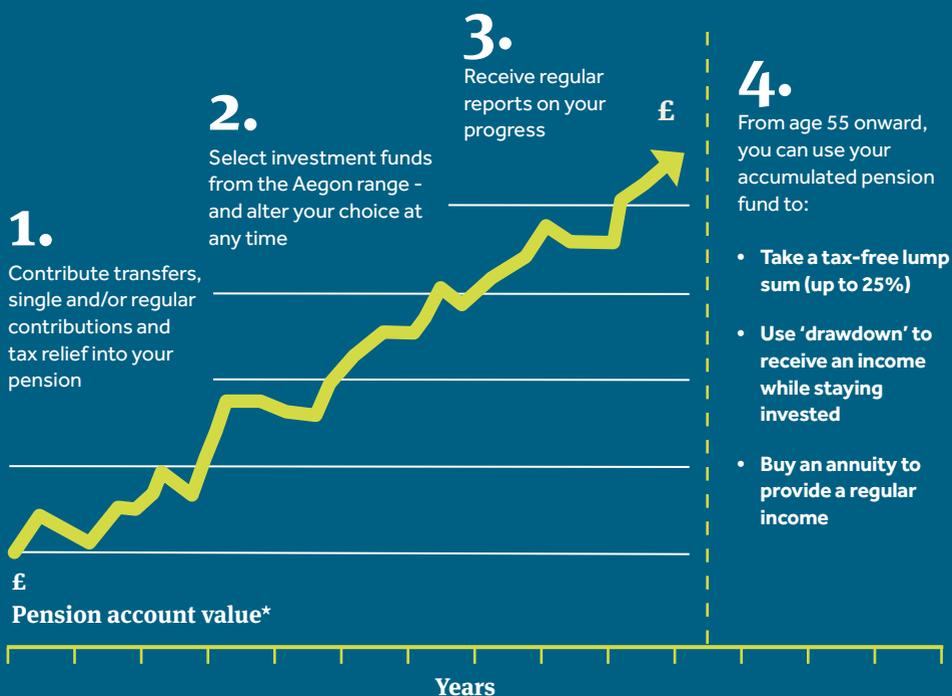
## Freedom at retirement

Should you wish to start taking benefits from your Cofunds Pension Account, you have options, from taking a tax-free lump sum, to using drawdown or buying an annuity to provide a regular income, see pages 18-19.

**Please note: if you choose to buy this product, you are doing so on a self-directed basis, we're not recommending that this product is right for you. If you choose to buy a Cofunds Pension Account as a self-directed investor, including the transfer of any existing pension plans into it, you must accept responsibility for your decisions. You are welcome to seek financial advice as and when required. A financial adviser may charge for their services.**

**If you're not comfortable making your own investment selection, this plan may be suitable for you but not on a self-directed basis. Please seek professional financial advice if you need individual guidance on your investment choices.**

# Your path to retirement



\*The value of your investments can go down as well as up, so the value of your pension plan when you come to take benefits is not guaranteed and could be less than you have paid in.

# Is this plan suitable for you?

If you choose to buy this product and make contributions into it (including transferring existing pension plans), it will be on a self-directed basis, that is, without financial advice.

It's up to you to decide whether the Cofunds Pension Account is right for you. Here are some important factors to consider when deciding.

## It may be suitable for you if:

- you have at least £5,000 (after tax relief) to invest or to transfer from another pension plan;
- you wish to invest in investment funds as a long-term investment, and are comfortable making your own investment selection and regularly reviewing your fund choice yourself;
- you accept that you can't access your money before age 55;
- you want the flexibility to choose how and when to take your pension benefits;
- you understand that investments can fall as well as rise in value.

## It will not be suitable for you if:

- you need personal advice on choosing the funds to invest in;
- you need personal advice on deciding whether to add or transfer existing pension arrangements or advice in choosing how to take your pension benefits;
- you don't want to take the risks of investing in investment funds;

- you need to access your money before age 55;
- you need the security of a guaranteed investment;
- you have a pension plan that is more suitable (see page 9).

## Risks to be aware of

There is a risk that the value of your investment can go down as well as up. It's particularly important to remember this if you're close to taking your benefits, or if you've designated part or all of your pension fund to drawdown, as your pension fund will not have much time to recover from any losses.

The value of the pension fund could also be lower if:

- The level of charges paid from the plan rises.
- You stop or make lower contributions to the plan.
- You take benefits from the plan at an earlier age than planned.

Specific investment risks will apply to your chosen investment funds. The law and tax treatment of registered pension schemes may change in the future.

There are some other risks referred to throughout the guide.

**Please refer to the Key Features for further details of the risks and key points to consider before taking out a Cofunds Pension Account.**



# Consolidate your pension plans

**Do you have multiple pension plans? Consolidating them into the Cofunds Pension Account could make them easier to manage.**

Over your working lifetime you can accumulate many different pension plans, which can become complex to keep track of and make it hard to calculate what all your different plans are worth. It can also be more expensive to pay charges for lots of different plans.

The Cofunds Pension Account can accept transfers from other pension plans. This can allow your assets to be managed as one single portfolio on the Aegon Platform.

Transfers can be accepted from a range of pension plans, including personal pensions and workplace schemes. You can transfer your old plans at any time, not just when you buy the Cofunds Pension Account. Currently, the charge to make a transfer is waived, and you can make as many transfers as you like.

The Cofunds Pension Account can accept both in specie transfers (where the pension fund assets are transferred from your old provider to the Cofunds Pension Account, as fund holdings) and also cash transfers.

Cash transfers mean that your old provider has sold the pension fund assets and sent the proceeds to the Cofunds Pension Account as cash. If you're unsure whether you can transfer your existing plan, please speak to your intermediary.

**Please note: transfers of occupational final salary schemes, also known as 'defined benefit' schemes, (which pay pension benefits based on your salary) are not permitted into the Cofunds Pension Account, unless you have been advised to do so by an appropriately qualified financial adviser.**

# Is transferring right for you?

Consolidating pension plans can offer advantages. But it's vital to check it's the right course of action for your individual circumstances.

Below are some important things to consider. If you're unsure about any of these points, please consult a financial adviser who can carry out a suitability analysis for you.

## 1. Costs and charges

- How do the charges on your old plan compare with the Cofunds Pension Account?
- Will your old provider charge a transfer penalty? This means that the transfer value they pay will be less than the ongoing value of your old plan.

## 2. Features

- Will you have all the investment choice you need if you transfer?
- Will consolidating your benefits offer you more flexibility and easier management of your retirement planning?

- Will you lose out on any special features on your old plan, such as loyalty bonuses?
- Is your old plan covering you for waiver of premium benefit or Pension Term Assurance which would be lost if you transfer?

Waiver of premium benefit is a type of insurance that continues to pay your pension contributions should illness or injury prevent you from working. The premiums are deducted from your pension contributions.

Pension Term Assurance is a type of life insurance policy that pays out a pre-determined lump sum if you die before your selected retirement age, provided contributions continue to be paid until you die. The premiums are usually deducted from your pension contributions. If you transfer from your old plan you may unintentionally reduce your overall life insurance cover. You could find it more expensive to replace, or if your health is not good, difficult or impossible to replace.

### 3. Guarantees and benefits

- Does your old plan have any Guaranteed Annuity Rates (GARs)? If so, they would be lost if you transfer. When a provider offered a GAR, they guaranteed to pay a minimum level of retirement income. Although GARs can be relatively inflexible (some, for example, may pay the GAR only from a fixed date, which may not be when you want to take your benefits), they are usually well worth holding onto.
- Will you lose any protected tax-free lump sums? Some occupational pension schemes can pay a higher proportion of benefits as a tax-free lump sum than can be taken from personal pensions. Usually this would only apply if your old plan is an occupational pension scheme that you were a member of before 6 April 2006. However, it could also apply if your old plan had previously received a transfer from an occupational pension scheme. Protected tax-free lump sums would usually be lost if you transfer.
- Will you lose any Guaranteed Investment Rates (GIRs)? This is a guarantee that your investment will grow by at least a specified amount. These guarantees may be valuable for some investors. GIRs are more common on With Profits investments, but some other funds may also have GIRs. If your old plan is invested in such a fund you'll lose that guarantee if you transfer out.

- Will the minimum age you can take benefits from change? If your old plan allowed you to take your benefits before age 55, you would usually lose this right upon transfer.

### 4. Contributions

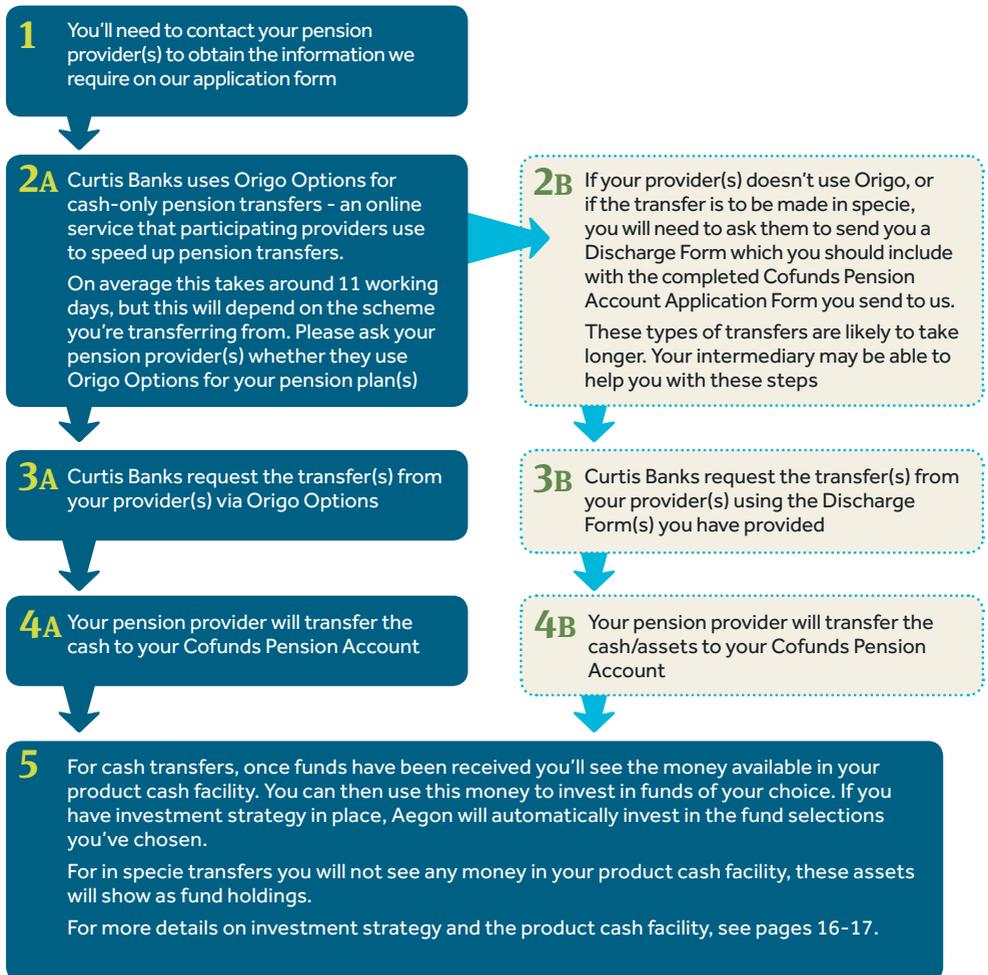
- Are you still paying contributions to your old plan?
- Is anyone else contributing to your old plan, for example your employer? Will they pay into the Cofunds Pension Account if you transfer?

### 5. With Profits plans

- If your old plan is invested in a With Profits fund, will your old provider apply a Market Value Reduction (MVR) if you transfer? A MVR may be applied when investment performance means that the value of the assets backing your old plan is lower than the value of the units held under your plan, together with any declared bonuses.
- Do you understand the other risks associated with transferring out of a With Profits fund, such as the loss of guaranteed future bonuses?

# How do I transfer?

If you decide that transferring a pension plan(s) to the Cofunds Pension Account is a suitable course of action, your pension provider(s) will need to action the release of your funds to enable the transfer to the Cofunds Pension Account.



If you have any nominated beneficiaries that you made in respect of your old plan, these will cease to apply once you've transferred. We strongly recommend that you provide details of any nominated beneficiaries on the Cofunds Pension Account Application Form when you apply, or at your earliest opportunity after you've made the transfer.



# Tax benefits

## A pension plan offers a unique combination of tax breaks – helping to optimise what you put in and what you get out.

Contributions into a pension plan are one of the most tax-efficient ways available to save and invest for the future. You can use the Cofunds Pension Account to take full advantage of pension plan tax benefits to help optimise your retirement income.

### Tax relief on contributions

Contributions into a pension plan receive tax relief at your highest rate of income tax. Basic-rate tax relief is added on to what you pay into your plan.

Basic-rate tax relief is not added at the time of contribution but usually 6-11 weeks later as it has to be directly requested by Curtis Banks from HMRC.

Higher and additional-rate (and Scottish intermediate rate) tax relief can be claimed in addition to basic-rate tax relief through your annual self-assessment tax return.

This means that every £1,000 contributed effectively costs from £550 to £800, depending on your rate of income tax, see **'To contribute £1,000 in a pension plan'** on the next page. You must pay sufficient tax at the higher rates to claim the full tax relief.

Even non-taxpayers can get basic-rate tax relief on pension contributions of up to £2,880 a year, allowing them to make a total 'gross' contribution of £3,600 a year.

You will not receive tax relief on transfers from other pension plans as they will have already benefitted from tax relief when initially invested.

Due to the time it can take for tax relief to be received into the Cofunds Pension Account, you may wish to set up an investment strategy to invest it in funds. You can find out more about this instruction on page 17.

### Tax-efficient growth potential

Investment funds held in a pension plan are not subject to income tax on any income they earn. Also, any rise in the value of your units or shares in an investment fund are not subject to Capital Gains Tax. This can provide an important boost to your investment growth potential.

### Tax-free lump sum

From age 55, you can take up to 25% of your accrued pension fund as a cash sum, with no tax payable on it. You can take the lump sum in one payment or phase it over a period of years by designating more of your pension fund to drawdown and taking the lump sums as you need them. The tax-free lump sum can be used for any purpose you wish. But it's important to remember that the more pension fund that's taken as tax-free lump sum, the less that's available to provide a retirement income and that charges may apply depending on how you designate your fund to drawdown.

**Please note: these tax rules apply as at April 2019. The exact value of tax benefits depends on your personal circumstances and tax rules, both of which can change. If you have any questions regarding this please speak to your intermediary.**

# To contribute £1,000 in a pension plan



\* £800 must be paid into the pension plan to achieve a gross contribution of £1,000.

This example is based on a UK tax payer. Please speak to your intermediary for more information if you're a Scottish taxpayer. For these purposes only - by UK taxpayer we mean taxpayers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

# Making new contributions

**Contributing new money into a Cofunds Pension Account is easy – whether you want to save regular amounts or make one-off contributions.**

## What you can contribute

The minimum investment to open a Cofunds Pension Account is £5,000 gross. This can be a new contribution, a transfer from another pension plan, or a combination of both.

Once your Cofunds Pension Account is set up you can also make single contributions, which can start at £1,000 gross or regular monthly contributions, which can start at £100 gross.

Regular contributions can be made by Direct Debit. Single contributions can be made by cheque or from available funds within your General Investment Account cash facility, if you already hold an account with Aegon. Contributions are subject to an annual allowance, see 'Pension Contributions – the facts' on the next page.

## Who can contribute

As well as making personal contributions, your Cofunds Pension Account can accept contributions from employers and other third parties – please ask your intermediary for the Key Features for details.

## Making contributions

The Cofunds Pension Account has a number of features to help make contributing easier:

### **Cofunds Pension Account cash facility:**

this online cash facility can hold contributions while you decide which funds to invest in. The product cash facility lets you time your investments and can be used to take money 'out of the market' temporarily if you wish. You can also use it to pay any costs associated with your pension plan.

Money held within the product cash facility will earn interest daily, which will be credited to your balance monthly in arrears. Aegon will also receive interest from the bank at which the product cash facility is held and will retain that interest.

**Please note: the Cofunds Pension Account cash facility forms part of your pension plan and money in it can't be accessed by you directly until you take your pension benefits.**

## Investment strategy

Using Aegon's investment strategy will allow you to automatically invest any money received into your Cofunds Pension Account. This can be from lump sums, regular contributions or reclaimed tax relief. Your chosen investments will be applied proportionally across all money received.

If you wish to use this facility please complete the relevant section of the application form or a separate Investment strategy instruction form available from your intermediary or through the Aegon website.

## Pension contributions – the facts

- You can get tax relief on contributions up to 100% of earnings, subject to a maximum annual allowance, please see the glossary on page 25 for details of the annual allowance
- Basic-rate tax relief is added onto your contributions on your behalf. Further tax relief for higher and additional-rate (and Scottish intermediate rate) taxpayers can be reclaimed through your annual self-assessment return
- Where the annual allowance has been exceeded in a given tax year, unused allowances from up to three previous tax years may be available
- If you have started to take retirement benefits, your contributions may be subject to a reduced limit, known as the money purchase annual allowance. The money purchase annual allowance for the 2019/2020 tax year is £4,000.

For further details on all of the above, please refer to the Key Features.

**Please note: these tax rules apply as at April 2019. The tax treatment of pensions may change in the future. The amount of tax relief you receive will depend on your individual circumstances.**

**If you have any questions regarding the tax rules and treatment of pensions, please speak to your intermediary.**

# Taking your pension benefits

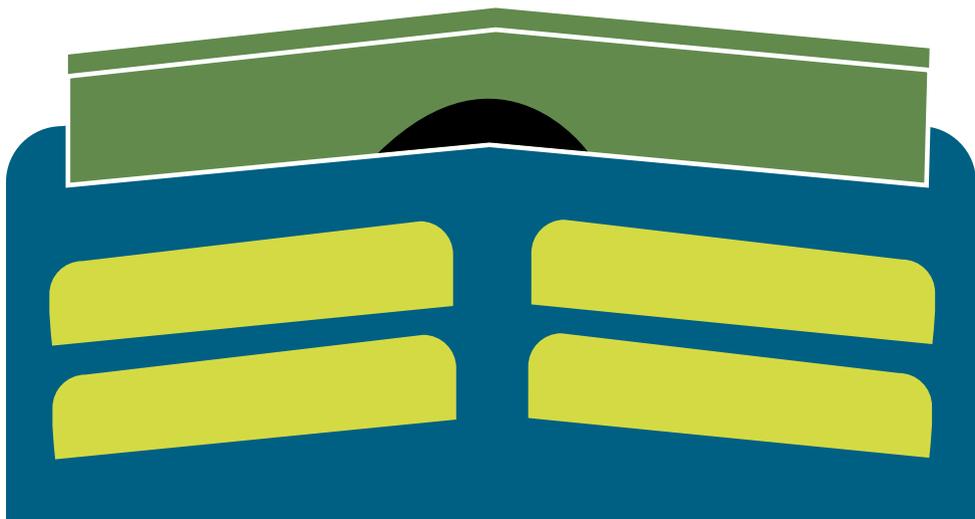
Should you need to start taking money out of your Cofunds Pension Account, you've got plenty of options.

**Broadly there are three options – which you can mix and match as your circumstances require – each with its own pros and cons.**

**1 Tax-free lump sum** – You can currently take up to 25% of your pension fund as a tax-free lump sum from age 55 (even if you haven't retired). This can be useful to release cash. But it will reduce what's available to generate a retirement income.

#### **Factors to consider**

- Frees up the tax-free lump sum to use for any purpose you wish.
- Reduces the pot of money available to provide income for the rest of your life.



## 2 Flexi-access Drawdown –

The drawdown feature on the Cofunds Pension Account allows you to take an income from your pension plan while leaving your pension fund invested, so you can still benefit from potential investment growth.

There's no limit, apart from the size of your drawdown fund, to the amount of income you can take through flexi-access drawdown. Income taken will be subject to income tax.

When we make payments to you which are subject to income tax, HMRC will need to provide us with your tax code for the applicable tax year. Where we make a payment before we have your tax code, we will apply an 'emergency' code.

Drawdown is available from age 55 and charges apply, see the Charges Sheet.

### Factors to consider

- Allows you to keep your pension fund invested and choose how much income to take from it
- Your pension fund is still exposed to investment risk and could fall in value, so it's important to review your fund choice before and whilst taking an income
- If investment growth doesn't keep pace with the level of income and drawdown charges taken, your pension fund will reduce in value
- After you have taken any income under flexi-access drawdown, contributions to your plan will be subject to the Money Purchase Annual Allowance
- If your funds were already in capped drawdown before 6 April 2015, this will remain available to you. The maximum amount of income is capped by HMRC at 150% of an equivalent annuity.

## 3 Annuity –

You can use some or all of your pension fund to buy an annuity on the open market (from a different provider). This can provide a regular income for the rest of your life. The rate of income paid will depend on multiple factors including prevailing interest rates, your age, life expectancy and what features you want on your annuity.

Generally speaking, the older you are when you buy an annuity, the more income you get for your money. However, annuity rates may worsen in the future and this could result in your pension fund providing you with a lower level of income.

### Factors to consider

- Provides an income, usually for the rest of your life
- Can build in features such as inflation-proofing and dependant's or other chosen beneficiaries income
- Money can't be returned once an annuity is purchased
- After you have taken any income from a flexible annuity (for example an annuity which allows income levels to decrease), contributions to your plan will be subject to the Money Purchase Annual Allowance.

**For more details on the options available when taking your pension benefits, please refer to the Key Features. If you're uncomfortable in making your own decisions when taking your pension benefits we recommend that you seek financial advice.**

# Staying in control

**Being with Aegon allows you to take full control of your retirement planning – and stay in touch with your investment progress.**

Through your intermediary's website, you can enjoy a range of online tools and services to help you manage your retirement planning, including:

**Online trading:** the Cofunds Pension Account allows you to buy, sell and switch investment funds exclusively online via your intermediary's website

**View transaction history:** see what funds you have bought and sold. View your current investment portfolio, and see transactions in and out of your Cofunds Pension Account cash facility

**Get valuations:** see the latest value of your total pension plan and individual investment funds

## **Following your progress**

See how your investment funds are performing, including:

- Online valuations
- Regular statements giving a full breakdown of funds held in your Cofunds Pension Account, their value and how they are performing
- Regular projections of what your pension fund might provide as income at retirement
- Consolidated reports for all your investments on Aegon.

# Get a complete view

The Cofunds Pension Account sits alongside all your other ISAs, General Investment Accounts and cash on the Aegon Platform. So you can get an accurate picture of what all your assets are worth.



**Get a single view of all your investments**

**Co-ordinate an investment strategy  
across all products and funds**

**Simplify reporting with a full breakdown  
of progress for every holding**

# What the plan costs

**There are no product charges to set up the Cofunds Pension Account unless you are taking pension benefits from the start.**

## **What you will pay:**

- Fund charges for your chosen investment funds (please refer to the relevant Key Investor Information Documents (KIIDs) or relevant fund-specific information for details)
- Charges if you use drawdown.
- The Aegon Platform annual charge.
- Any charges levied by your intermediary – contact them for details.

**For full details and an explanation of current charges including those for the Aegon Platform, please ask your intermediary for the Charges Sheet.**

**Please note: your intermediary will provide you with a Personal Illustration to show the potential impact of charges on your forecasted investment.**

## **What you won't pay:**

- Any charge to set up a Cofunds Pension Account – unless you use drawdown.
- Any annual charge to administer your Cofunds Pension Account – unless you use drawdown.
- Any charges to switch funds.
- A transfer out charge.
- In addition, the charge to transfer in other pension plans is currently waived.

# Your next steps

## How to buy a Cofunds Pension Account

If, after reading this guide, you feel the Cofunds Pension Account might be suitable for you, here's what to do next:

**1. Contact** your intermediary for a Personal Illustration and a copy of the Key Features. These will explain the product in more detail and give you a forecast of potential benefits and the impact of charges, based on your personal circumstances. Your intermediary will also provide other important information to help you decide if the Cofunds Pension Account is suitable, including, Terms and Conditions and a Charges Sheet.

**2. Assess** your Personal Illustration and other documents to determine if the Cofunds Pension Account is right for you.

**3. Request and complete** a Cofunds Pension Account Application Form from your intermediary\*, provided you do decide the plan is right for you. Your intermediary will send your completed and signed application, plus associated documents, to Aegon on your behalf. Cheques must be payable to 'Cofunds Limited'.

**4. Receive** your account login details from your intermediary, plus your Welcome Pack from Curtis Banks.

**5. Log On** and start managing your Cofunds Pension Account. Speak to your intermediary about setting up your investment strategy, if you wish to use this facility.

\*Additional standalone Cofunds Pension Account Application Forms may be required to be completed and are available from your intermediary.

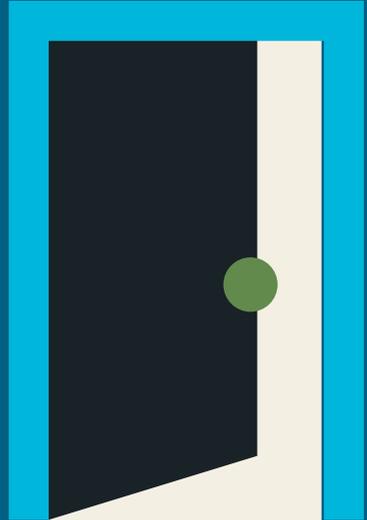
## What next?

Consider 'is this plan right for me?' If so:

- Read the Key Features and Charges Sheet, and review your Personal Illustration provided by your intermediary.
- Read the Aegon Platform key information document provided by your intermediary.
- Read the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) for the fund(s) you wish to invest in.
- Take professional advice if you are unsure if this plan is suitable for you.

**For more information, or if you have any questions, please speak to your intermediary.**

**You may wish to keep this guide for future reference.**



## Free, impartial guidance – backed by government

Pension Wise is a free government service that helps you understand what you can do with your pension funds when you come to take benefits from them. It explains what your options are, what's tax-free and what's not.

You can find more information at [www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk) or call **030 0330 1001**

You can also have a free guidance session over the telephone or face-to-face to help you plan and take the time to make the right decision for you.

The service is impartial and won't recommend companies or tell you how to use your pension pot or invest your money.

# Glossary

**Pensions can be complex. To make this document as easy to understand as possible, we've prepared a glossary of the terms that appear throughout.**

**Annual allowance** – the maximum amount of pension savings that you, your employer or a third party can pay into all your registered pension schemes each year without penalty.

The annual allowance for the tax year 2019/2020 is £40,000.

If your income (including the value of any pension contributions) is over £150,000, your annual allowance may be reduced.

Where you exceed the Money Purchase Annual Allowance in a tax year, you'll have a reduced annual allowance of £30,000 available for defined benefit (for example, final salary) pension arrangements.

**Annuity** – A policy that provides an agreed regular income for the rest of your life in exchange for a lump sum, from your pension fund.

**Benefits** – A lump sum payment and/or income payable by drawdown or by buying an annuity or a combination of both.

**Cofunds Pension Account cash facility** – An account that is part of your plan and used hold cash inside your plan, it is not invested in investment funds.

**Drawdown** – Taking benefits from your pension fund, in the form of an income, while it's still invested.

**Fund manager** – Investment specialist(s) managing an investment fund.

**General Investment Account (GIA)** – A general purpose investment account that lets you hold a wide variety of investments. You can pay in as much as you like but it doesn't offer any tax advantages unlike your Cofunds Pension Account. The GIA is not part of your Cofunds Pension Account.

**HMRC** – HM Revenue & Customs, the UK tax authority.

**Intermediary** – An organisation nominated by you who you authorise to receive communications in respect of your plan and to give instructions on your behalf.

**Investment fund** – An investment managed by a fund manager. Each investment fund has a different investment aim and style.

**Key Investor Information Document** – Gives the key information you need to decide whether an investment fund is right for you. You must read it before making any investment decisions.

**Money Purchase Annual Allowance** – the maximum that you, your employer or a third party can pay into all your money purchase arrangements each year without penalty, after you have flexibly accessed pension benefits from 6 April 2015 under any registered pension scheme.

The conditions for flexibly accessing pension benefits include amongst others:

- a. you receive a flexi-access drawdown payment;
- b. you have had benefits in flexible drawdown from 6 April 2015 in any registered pension scheme.

Please speak to your intermediary or contact us directly for more details.

The Money Purchase Annual Allowance for the tax year 2019/2020 is £4,000.

**Registered pension scheme** – A pension scheme registered with HMRC.

The Cofunds Pension Account is provided by Curtis Banks Pensions (Curtis Banks), a trading name of Curtis Banks Pensions Limited (Suffolk Life). Registered address: 153 Princes Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1QJ.

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