

Key features of the Shepherds Individual Savings Account

What is the purpose of this document?

The Financial Services Authority is the independent financial services regulator. It requires us, The Shepherds Friendly Society Ltd, to give you this important information to help you to decide whether our Individual Savings Account is right for you. You should read this document carefully so that you understand what you are buying, and then keep it safe for future reference.

Its aims

To provide:

- an increase to the value of the money you have invested over the medium to long term (5 years plus) by the addition of regular and final bonuses from the fund.
- the proceeds of the investment free of Income and Capital Gains Tax under current ISA Rules.
- you with an accessible tax efficient investment from which you can take withdrawals.

Your investment

- You can invest an amount between £500 and £10,200. Although the plan has no fixed term it should be considered as a medium (5 years plus) to long term investment.
- Your circumstances may change forcing you to withdraw the investment early, which may mean that you get back less than you expected.
- If you want to stop or withdraw from the ISA you must inform us.

Risks

- The value of your ISA depends on the future performance of the investments held in the fund and the bonuses we distribute from any profits arising from these investments.
- H M Revenue and Customs may change the tax status of an ISA in the future.
- If you make regular withdrawals from the ISA at a higher level than the bonuses added you will erode the value of your investment. You should also be aware that inflation may have an effect on the purchasing value of your investment in the future.
- In poor investment conditions we may apply a Market Value Reduction (MVR) when you withdraw your investment and this could mean that you get back less than you have paid in.

Questions and answers

What is the Shepherds ISA?

An Individual Savings Account (ISA) is a tax-efficient way in which you can save without having to pay any income tax. The Shepherds ISA is a Stocks and Shares ISA.

Who can have an ISA?

Anyone over the age of 18 can open a Shepherds Stocks and Shares ISA provided you live in the UK and are ordinarily resident here for tax purposes.

Please note: Stocks and shares ISA's carry a higher risk than a bank or building society cash ISA.

ISAs can only be held in the name of one person - you cannot have a joint ISA. You cannot save on behalf of a company, club, charity etc.

How much can I invest?

The ISA allowance for 2010/2011 tax year is £10,200. This can be invested in a Stocks and Shares ISA. You can only have one Stocks and Shares ISA per tax year with one provider.

OR

You can invest up to 50% of the allowance - £5,100 into a cash ISA with another provider but you could only then invest the balance of the overall £10,200 limit into a Stocks and Shares ISA.

OR

You can transfer an existing ISA.

How do I transfer an existing ISA to the Shepherds ISA?

To transfer an existing ISA to us from another company you must complete a transfer form. We will then contact the existing company and write to you when we have received the money. The transfer may take up to 30 days

Warning - if you transfer from a Cash ISA to a Stocks and Shares ISA you cannot in the future transfer these funds back to a Cash ISA.

Warning – You should not withdraw the money yourself as the transfer must be performed by an ISA registered company in order to maintain the Tax benefit.

If you wish to transfer the ISA away from Shepherds to another company please ask them to request the transfer.

How will my Investment grow?

We will invest your money in our With Profit Fund, which holds a mix of assets including stocks and shares, property, gilts, bonds and cash. The market values of these assets move up and down over time but such movements are outside our control. These movements may affect how much we add to investments as bonuses.

The aim of the fund is to provide each customer with steady investment growth over the full savings period of their investment. To do this we keep back some of the investment returns we make in good years so that we can pass them on in years when performance is not so good. We add the returns as a yearly bonus.

When you decide to end your plan we may pay an extra bonus, depending on how the fund has performed.

You can find out more information about how our fund works in our document called "A guide to how we manage our with-profit business" which comes with this document.

What might the benefits be after 5 and 10 years?

Example of £5,000 invested.

If the investment grew at 5% a year the value after 5 years would be £5,760 and after 10 years would be £6,840.

If the investment grew at 7% a year the value after 5 years would be £6,330 and after 10 years would be £8,280.

If the investment grew at 9% a year the value after 5 years would be £6,960 and after 10 years would be £9,990.

Will my investments work out exactly as in the example?

The example we've provided is meant to be an illustration of what your investment may be worth. What you will actually get back depends upon how our investments perform.

You could get back more or less than this.

Do not forget that inflation could reduce what you could buy in the future.

What happens if I die?

Should you die whilst your ISA is still invested then a death benefit will be paid to your estate. The amount payable will be 100% of your initial investment plus all bonuses which have been added and any final bonus which may be paid, subject to a minimum payment of 101% of your initial investment. The amount of any withdrawals you have taken will be deducted from this total.

How will I be kept informed about my ISA?

Each year you will receive a Statement showing the amount and value of any bonus payments, withdrawals and the total value of your ISA.

How do I cash in or withdraw money from my ISA?

You have access to your ISA at any time. The minimum amount you can withdraw at any one time is £100. There are no fixed penalties applied to a withdrawal but we may apply a market value reduction (please see section 'What is a Market Value Reduction' (MVR)).

Please note that if you withdraw some money from an ISA invested in the current tax year you will still only be allowed to invest up to the limit of £10,200 regardless of the amount withdrawn and you cannot change providers until the following tax year.

If you have more than one ISA with us you must tell us which ISA you wish the withdrawal to come from.

You can phone **0161 428 1212**, write to us here in Cheadle or email us at **info@shepherds.co.uk** - and we will send you a form for you to complete. As soon as we have received the form we will arrange for the money to be sent to you.

How will charges affect my investment and what are the deductions?

Charges are deducted from your investment to cover our expenses and the cost of administering and managing your investments - this is currently 3% as an initial plan charge and an annual management charge of 1.5%.

The last line of the table below shows that over the term illustrated the effect of the deductions could amount to £1500.

Putting it another way, this would have the same effect as bringing the investment growth from 7.0% a year down to 5.5% a year.

Example of £5,000 invested.			
The figures below assume the investment will grow at 7% a year			
Effect of deductions table			
At end of year	Total paid to date	Effect of deductions	What you might get back
1	£5,000	£233	£5,110
2	£5,000	£326	£5,390
3	£5,000	£430	£5,690
4	£5,000	£545	£6,000
5	£5,000	£674	£6,330
The later years			
10	£5,000	£1,500	£8,280

What is a Market Value Reduction (MVR)?

If our investment returns have been low we may use a Market Value Reduction to make sure you do not leave the fund with more than your fair share of its assets. This is to protect plan holders who still have money in the fund, but it may mean that you receive less than you expected.

We would not use a market value reduction if you died.

What if I want to change my mind about opening my ISA?

From the date you open your account you have 30 days in which to cancel your plan and your money will be returned. If you cancel within the 30 days you will be treated as though you had not used your ISA allowance and would be able to subscribe to another ISA in the current tax year.

If you cancel your ISA after the 30 days

Under ISA rules you will be treated as though you have subscribed to a Stocks and Shares ISA and will therefore not be able to have another one in the current tax year.

You would be allowed to open a Cash ISA with any unused allowance.

How much will the advice cost?

Your financial adviser (if you have one) will tell you details about the cost of advice.

Where can I find out more?

Before your plan starts we will send you the full terms and conditions. These explain how the plan works. If you would like to see these terms and conditions before you apply please contact us:

Phone: **0161 428 1212**

Fax: **0161 428 3666**

Email: **info@shepherdsfriendly.co.uk**

Web: **www.shepherds.co.uk**

More information

Claims - to make a claim please contact us by phone on 0161 428 1212 and ask for the Claims Department. They will explain the claims process and send out a claim form.

Cancellation Rights - after we accept your application we will send you a notice of your right to cancel. You will then have 30 days to change your mind and leave the plan.

Complaints - if you want to make a complaint; please contact:

Compliance Officer, Shepherds Friendly,
Shepherds House, Stockport Road
Cheadle SK8 2AA

Phone: 0161 428 1212.

Email: info@shepherds.co.uk

If we don't deal with your complaint to your satisfaction you can complain to the:

Financial Ombudsman Service, South Quay
Plaza, 183 Marsh Wall, London E14 9SR.

Phone: 0845 080 1800

Making a complaint will not affect your right to take legal action.

Past performance - please note that past performance is not a guide to future performance. It is important to understand that future bonuses depend on profits yet to be earned and as a result cannot be guaranteed.

Financial Services Compensation

Scheme (FSCS) - we are covered by the FSCS, which means you may be entitled to compensation under the terms of the scheme if we cannot meet our obligations. This depends on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim.

For long term plans such as this the scheme covers 90% of the claim with no upper limit. Further information about the scheme is available from the FSCS -

7th Floor
Lloyds Chambers
Portsoken Street,
London
E1 8BN.

Financial Crime - we will take measures to protect members against financial crime. We may need proof of identity on application or claim and if required we may gather this proof by electronic means, for example checking electoral registers.

Tax - information that we provide in this leaflet about taxes in the UK is based on our understanding of current laws and H M Revenue and Customs practice which may change in the future.

The Data Protection Act - you have the right to ask to see any personal information which we may hold about you and to have any mistakes in this information corrected. You can do this by writing to the data protection officer at our head office. There may be a charge for this.

Law - the plan is governed by the laws of England and Wales.



Providing Financial Security Since 1826

**AUTHORISED AND REGULATED BY THE
FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY.
THE SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY IS
INCORPORATED UNDER THE 1992 FRIENDLY
SOCIETIES ACT NO.240F**

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The Head office and Registered office of
The Shepherds Friendly Society is based in the
United Kingdom