LEAVING YOUR EMPLOYER WHEN IN A GROUP PENSION

If you leave your employer, the payments you and your employer are making into the pension pot will stop. Your pension still belongs to you though, and there are multiple options for what you can do with it. **This factsheet does not apply to final salary or occupational schemes.**

CAN I GET A REFUND?

You'll only have the option of taking a refund if you've been a member for less than thirty days, and you haven't made any contributions using a salary sacrifice arrangement. The amount that you receive refunded will have been subject to tax, to cover the fact that there was tax relief on the contributions. You'll lose any employer contributions.

1. Keep paying in yourself

Continuing to pay into your pension will help build up your pot, giving you more money when you retire. It's up to you how much and how often you pay into your pension and you can either make one-off payments or pay by direct debit. For further information please contact your pension provider. **Don't forget you'll still get tax relief on your pension payments.**

2. Combine pension pots

If you've had more than one job during your working life, you've almost certainly paid into more than one defined contribution pension scheme. If you do have several pots it could well be worth combining them into a single pot. The advantages of doing so are that it saves you time and money by making it easier for you to manage your pension pot. With only one pension provider to contact you'll also spend less time on paperwork! **Make sure that you speak to a financial adviser as they'll be able to tell you whether this would be a good choice for you, based on your personal circumstances**.

3. Stop contributing to pension pot

When you leave an employer, you may understandably want to leave everything as it is for the time being. Your pension provider will continue to manage it and send you an update at least once a year. However:

- You won't be regularly building up your pension pot if you don't contribute, however your pension fund will still reflect the funds it's invested in so the value could go up or down.
- You'll still be paying charges on your plan. These charges will be taken from your pension, so the value might deteriorate.

If you have any questions please get in touch by:
Tel: 01454 632 495
E-mail: info@aspirafp.co.uk
Or get in touch with your pension provider

4. Think about retiring

You can retire at any time after you reach the age of 55. If you're coming up to retirement, you might want to start considering what you want to do. The recent Pension freedoms legislation means you've got more options than ever:

- Take money as a lump sum
- Leave money where it is
- Use some or all your money to buy an annuity
- Withdraw your money as and when you need it.

Deciding what to do with your hard earnt pension pot is one of the biggest financial decisions you'll ever make. We recommend speaking to a financial adviser as it's simply too important to get wrong.