

Future Money Matters Virtual Event – 22-25 June 2021

Session Topic Information:

To help you decide which session topics you would like to book, please view the summaries in the table below:

Making a Will (Sofia Tayton - Lodders LLP):

Making a Will tells everyone what should happen to your money, possessions, and property after you die (all of these things are known as your 'estate'). If you do not have a Will in place, the law will decide how your estate is passed on – and this may not be in line with your wishes. Without a Will, the process can also be more time consuming and stressful for your spouse and / or family members to manage. This session will provide you with all the information you need to know about setting up a Will.

Lasting Power of Attorney (Sofia Tayton - Lodders LLP):

What would happen if you had an accident, illness or injury which meant you were unable to make your own decisions? Would you want someone you could trust to help and support you, and to help make decisions on your behalf? If the answer to that question is 'yes', then you should strongly consider appointing a 'Lasting Power of Attorney' (LPA). This session will provide you with all you need to know about LPA and how to set one up.

Savings & Investments (Jody Banks - Caple Banks Wealth Management):

This session will introduce you to investments and the concept of making your cash savings work harder for you (compared to just holding funds at the Thalidomide Trust or in a low interest bank savings account for example). Understand the different types of investment opportunities that are available to you, the risks, and the potential gains.

Mortgages (Gareth Byrne - Reliance Bank Ltd):

In comparison to a Major Advance (through the Trust), mortgages are a very accessible and economic form of borrowing for beneficiaries to consider. Reliance Bank uniquely accept Trust Annual Grant & Health Grant income as well as benefits income when assessing beneficiary mortgage borrowing parameters (subject to affordability). This session will provide you with information about available mortgage options with Reliance Bank and how to apply.

Life Insurance / Life Assurance (Phil Williams – Beneficiary & NAC Member):

This is increasingly an important topic for beneficiaries. Exactly what is it? Do some of us need it? Why? If so, what are the key issues we should think about? If you want to learn more from a fellow beneficiary who ran his own business in financial services for 14 years, please join me.

I cannot and will not give advice as I'm legally prohibited from doing so, but I will flag up key issues on existing policies you may have, give you some basics to think about and crucially signpost you to trusted independent advisors, if you need to explore further.

Switching Utility & Insurance Providers (Phil Williams – Beneficiary & NAC Member):

Alas, with utility and other service providers, loyalty does NOT pay. In fact, it costs you money ! A lot of money.

Several years ago, I reviewed all my utilities and subscriptions saving hundreds and hundreds of pounds. It was frightening and staggering how much money I was wasting by simply automatically renewing with the same providers. I looked at gas, electricity, house & contents insurance, car insurance, broadband, streaming services, car rescue services, mobile phones etc.

If you want to reduce your outgoings, get more bang for your buck, then this session might be of interest to you.

Trust Finances (Suzanne Lluch – Thalidomide Trust Finance Director)

In this session, Suzanne will explain how the Trust's finances work: where the funds come from, what the agreement with Diageo says, how the investments are used to fund the grants each year, why the stock market performance has no impact on the level of grants paid, and other frequently asked questions.

Trust Investments (Kevin Wesbroom & Mark Benstead – Finance Trustees)

Kevin and Mark will talk about the Trust's investment strategy: why and how investments are positioned; why they are important to the Trust's future income; the relationship with, and the monitoring of the fund managers; and how the investments are likely to evolve over time.