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Money Matters Memo - July 2026

What's happening this month?

The rundown:

- [The ISA landscape is changing – here's a simple explanation of what it means.](#)
- [I'm delighted to share some exciting news about my work helping people plan confidently for later life.](#)
- [Has your child recently turned 18? There are some important financial changes every family should know about.](#)



ISA changes – what's actually happening?

There's been a lot of talk about ISAs recently, with several changes announced and more expected over the coming months.

If you've found it all a little confusing, you're certainly not alone!

Firstly... what actually is an ISA (Individual Savings Account)?

I always describe an ISA as being a bit like gift wrapping. Inside the wrapper sits an ordinary account:

- **A Cash ISA** is simply a savings account.
- **A Stocks & Shares ISA** is an investment account.

The ISA wrapper simply means that, under the current rules, any interest, investment growth or income is generally free from UK Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax. These tax advantages are set by the Government and can change over time, so the benefits available will depend on the rules in force and your own individual circumstances.

With a Cash ISA, your money earns interest, much like a normal savings account. With a Stocks & Shares ISA, your money is invested instead, giving it the opportunity to grow over the longer term. Of course, unlike cash savings, the value of investments can rise and fall,

so you could get back less than you invest. Whether investing is appropriate depends on your own circumstances and goals.

Cash ISA allowance reducing

From 6 April 2027, the amount most people under age 65 can pay into a Cash ISA each tax year is expected to reduce from £20,000 to £12,000, whilst the Stocks & Shares ISA allowance is expected to remain at £20,000.

The Government hopes this will encourage more people to consider investing for their longer-term goals rather than keeping larger amounts in cash. However, cash can provide a greater level of certainty, whereas investments have greater potential to grow over time but can also fall in value, so neither option is automatically "better" – it depends on what you're saving for and when you might need the money.

Changes to cash held inside a Stocks & Shares ISA

Another proposed change is aimed at people who use a Stocks & Shares ISA simply as a savings account.

Currently, some people pay money into a Stocks & Shares ISA but leave it sitting in cash rather than investing it.

From April 2027, the Government should be removing the tax advantage on interest earned from cash held within a Stocks & Shares ISA, meaning any interest earned on uninvested cash within the account would be subject to a flat 22% tax charge. The idea is to encourage Stocks & Shares ISAs to be used for investing over the longer term, rather than simply as an alternative to a Cash ISA.

If you're investing for the future, a Stocks & Shares ISA can still be a valuable tax-efficient wrapper. However, if your intention is simply to hold cash, it's worth understanding how these proposed changes may affect you.

A new First Time Buyer ISA

The Government has also announced plans for a brand-new First Time Buyer ISA. At the moment, we know it's intended to help people save towards their first home, but many of the finer details haven't yet been released.

Rather than speculate, I'll cover everything you need to know in a future newsletter once the rules have been finalised.

It's also worth noting that St. James's Place does not currently offer Cash ISAs or Lifetime ISAs.

Looking ahead with confidence

When people think about financial planning, they often think about pensions and investments but some of the most important conversations happen much later in life.

Perhaps you're approaching retirement, supporting ageing parents, wondering how care might be funded, or helping a loved one make important financial decisions.

These situations often bring questions that go far beyond money alone.

Good financial planning isn't just about money. It's about understanding your options and making informed decisions so your finances continue to support the life you want to live.

If you're beginning to think about any of these issues, having a plan in place can make future decisions feel much less overwhelming.

This may involve a referral to Karehero, a care navigator and matching service provider, whose services are separate and distinct to those offered by St. James's Place.

**** Blog Spotlight ** Blog Spotlight ****

Your child has turned 18... what changes financially?

Turning 18 is an exciting milestone, but it's also one of the biggest financial milestones your child will ever experience. Overnight, they gain control of their Junior ISA and any pensions already in their name. They also become eligible for a

wider range of savings and investment options, whilst beginning to build their own financial identity.

In this month's blog, I explain:

- What happens to a Junior ISA
- When Child Benefit may stop
- The financial opportunities that become available at 18
- Why helping young adults understand money may be one of the greatest gifts we can give them

Read the full article [here](#).

In my socials

Did you know you can also catch my top tips and insights on social media?

Follow me on LinkedIn, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram for regular updates – short, practical and built around real life.

Here's what you'll find:

- Quick financial planning tips to help you make confident decisions
- Retirement reminders and regular check-in prompts
- Encouragement to help you feel more financially in control
- Occasional behind-the-scenes updates (because money is personal)

Facebook

Why protecting your income can help protect everything else you've worked so hard to build.

See the post [HERE](#)

LinkedIn

A simple question that makes us all stop and think: what would happen if your income stopped tomorrow?

See the post [HERE](#)

Instagram

A brilliant story showing why it's always worth asking one simple question before making any financial decision: who benefits?

See the post [HERE](#)



Until next month...

Financial planning doesn't have to be complicated. Sometimes all it takes is someone to explain things in plain English.

Whether you're trying to understand the latest rule changes, preparing for retirement, helping your children become financially independent or planning for later life, I'm here to help make it all feel a little simpler.

And if you know someone who might enjoy these monthly updates, please feel free to forward this newsletter or encourage them to sign up through my website.

Take care

Naomi



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