

Live in the now but be positive about tomorrow

Planning and preparing today for what lies ahead will help you to feel better about your finances overall – and it doesn't have to be arduous or complicated

Depending on how things are going for you, thinking about the future can be exciting or fill you full of dread. There are so many unanswered questions. Will I meet the right person? Will my career pan out well? What if something bad happens? How will I survive if something goes seriously wrong?

At the back of it all, money continues to be the biggest source of worry for people in this country. Despite Ireland's

strong economic growth over the last few years, a recent survey from Royal London found that 46% of Irish people still regard money as their biggest source of worry – a 9% increase on the survey findings last year. The percentage goes up to 51% for people in the 18-34 age bracket, those who are most affected by rent and property issues.

With so many financial demands in the present, it's understandable that people in younger age groups are inclined to avoid factoring in

what will come down the line when they're much older. Surely after putting in a hard week at work and managing to pay the mortgage or rent and bills, whatever's left should be spent on enjoyment?

However, we are in an era now when individuals can't afford to sit back and rely on the state to look after them when they're old. With all of

this in mind, we've put together this guide to take the "scariness" out of taking control of your own financial security and to show how



easily financial planning can be incorporated into your life, now.

On page 4 we highlight the facts and figures which make preparing for your financial future so compelling – the so-called pensions time bomb.

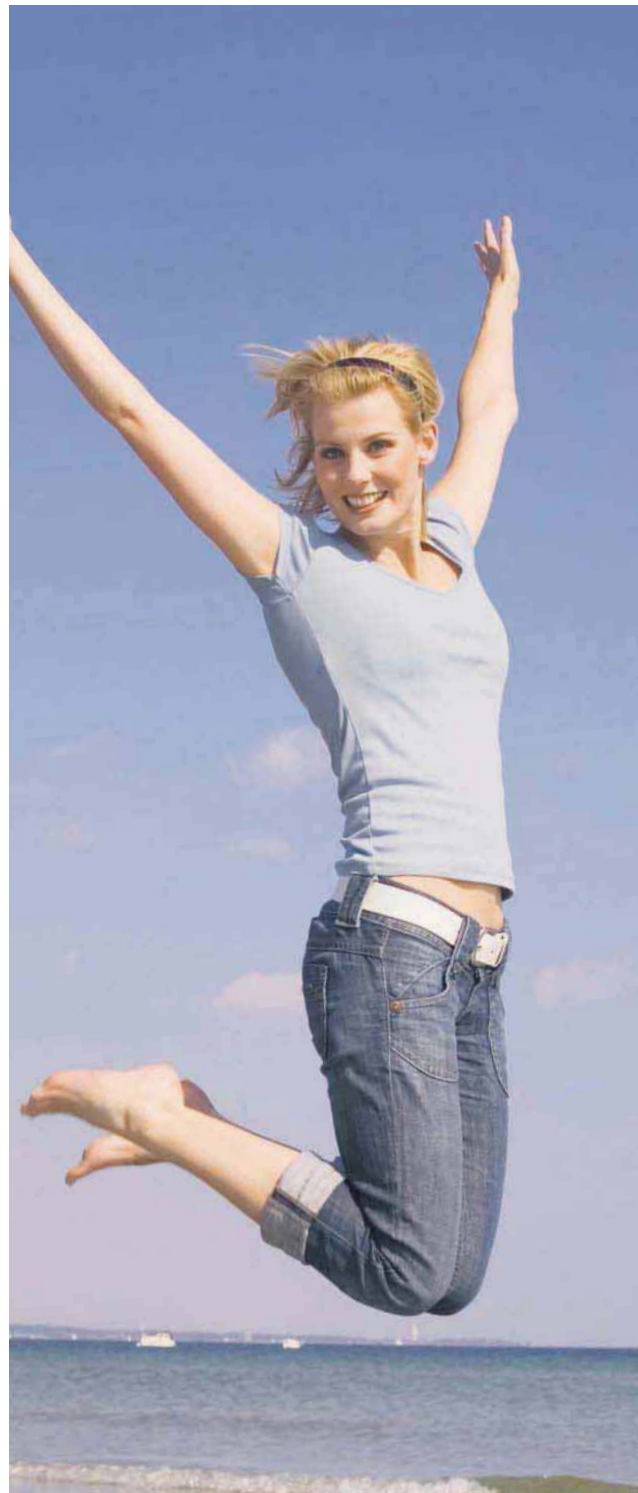
Life events like marriage and children tend to focus people's minds more on financial affairs. On page 6, we provide advice on assessing your financial compatibility with your future spouse and outline the types of costs to expect in terms of bringing up children.

Lynn Harding is not your average 28-year-old – she has set up a pension and has two savings accounts. We learn how she has managed this and how she feels about money and the future on page 7.

Fancy yourself as an investor? On page 8 we explore the notion of investing in stocks and shares to build up wealth for the future and how much risk you should think of taking on. This is followed on page 9 by seven reasons to start a pension now if you haven't already.

Also in this guide, we gain valuable insights from Sarah Fallaw, the author of *The Next Millionaire Next Door*, and provide product advice in the areas of protection and savings.





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