

Benchmark



Fair Value Statement

Firm Name: Midsummer Wealth

November 2025

About Us

Introduction

This document is aimed at providing you with a brief overview of our firm and to introduce our services. In this document, we intend to illustrate how we assess value and whether there is fair value between the total price of the service and the benefits and their quality that our clients receive.

Midsummer Wealth provides financial planning and wealth management. Managing director, Claire Walsh, is an award winning chartered financial planner with over 10 years industry experience, having worked as an adviser, media commentator and in senior management at a national advice firm.

Our service proposition has been designed to meet the needs and objectives of our clients and to ensure fair value is received by engaging with our service.

We have three distinct groups of clients:

- Younger clients who are working often the focus here will be on protection and planning to help them with building their wealth.
- Approaching and in early retirement – this is typically focused on helping them to have the retirement they want.
- Inheritance tax and later life planning – this is typically focused on helping clients who to ensure they have enough for their lifetimes and with gifting and legacy plans.

For ongoing wealth management our service is targeted at those with over £300,000. For all groups we offer particular expertise in sustainable investments

We believe in delivering clear, measurable value — both tangible and intangible — to every client we serve.

Our role is to help you make confident, well-informed financial decisions that support your life goals, not just manage your money.

The tangible value we provide includes robust financial planning, tailored investment management, tax efficiency, and risk mitigation — all designed to enhance and protect your financial position. The intangible value lies in the reassurance, clarity, and peace of mind that come from working with a trusted adviser who truly understands your circumstances and priorities.

Through ongoing personal relationships, transparent communication, and proactive review, we ensure that our services remain relevant, high-quality, and fairly priced — giving you confidence that your financial wellbeing is in capable hands.

The Value of our Service

Best Practice

Midsummer Wealth is an “appointed representative” of Best Practice. Best Practice is part of Benchmark which is owned by Schroders plc.

Best Practice provide an institutional regulatory supervision and compliance framework service which provides us with a high level of regulatory assurance and leading-edge client management systems. This high quality and financially sound organisation ultimately provide us with a high level of assurance and comfort around the regulatory framework of the proposition and services we deliver to you, our clients.

By leveraging the quality and services of an organisation like Benchmark, a Schroders plc group company, we have comfort that we will remain at the leading edge of our profession, ensuring we maintain a “Best Practice” approach to serving our clients. Many of the benefits we derive, we see as having direct value add relevance for our clients, including:

- Enhanced professional indemnity insurance.
- Integrated client technology systems, including the Wealth Platform
- Independent compliance supervision of our advisers and the suitability of our client advice.
- The provision of an independent complaints handling process for all of our clients.

Chartered Financial Planner

Becoming a Chartered Financial Planner was the culmination of years of learning and professional practice. It means I am committed to the highest standards of professional competency, ethical standards, and integrity. Chartered Financial Planners represent the gold standard in financial planning. We know this gives our clients a great deal of comfort.

Advice Process and service

Initial advice process:

Stage 1 – Initial Meeting

An introductory, no-obligation meeting to understand your personal and financial circumstances, goals, and priorities — and for you to learn about our service. By the end, we’ll outline how we can help and the likely costs.

Stage 2 – Research

We gather detailed information about your existing arrangements, often using letters of authority to contact providers. This helps us fully understand your position and assess the suitability of current plans. This stage typically takes 4–8 weeks.

Stage 3 – Second Meeting (Inform and Discuss)

We present our findings and use cash-flow modelling to illustrate your financial position and explore scenarios such as retirement timing or investment strategies. You’ll have time to reflect before deciding how to proceed.

Stage 4 – Third Meeting (Formal Advice)

We agree the way forward and provide a written report with tailored recommendations and a clear breakdown of all costs before any implementation.

Stage 5 – Implementation

We manage all paperwork and processes for any agreed actions, ensuring everything is set up correctly and investments are made as intended.

Stage 6 – Aftercare

Once everything is in place, we check in to confirm you have all documentation, online access, and full clarity — and to ensure you’re happy with our service.

This thorough process ensures that every client receives a holistic financial review, has time to consider things and that they understand any new arrangements going forward.

Our ongoing review service will include:

- Access to our client portal which provides an overview of your personal and financial information and allows you to upload and store other important documents (e.g. will, house insurance, etc) providing a one-stop shop for your affairs.
- You can contact us as needed if you have any changes in your circumstances and require ad-hoc advice.
- Peace of mind that we will proactively contact you should there be any external changes (such as legislation or tax changes) which will effect you. We will contact you in a timely manner to advise you of these changes, consider any potential impact and advise you on what actions to take.

Annual Review Meeting:

An important part of our annual review service is a formal annual review meeting. This gives us an opportunity to sit down with you, to reflect on the past year and to look forward and consider what might be on the horizon for you in the coming years. To give you reassurance and peace of mind about how your investments are tracking against your goals and to review our plans in the context of any changing circumstances in your life, new goals, or changes in your objectives.

Annual Review meeting will include:

- A review of your current situation and an update of our initial Fact Find to capture any changes
- An assessment of your objectives for the next few years
- A re-appraisal of your attitude to risk, identifying any changes and confirming the ongoing appropriateness of your portfolio
- A review of previously recommended arrangements and confirmation of their ongoing suitability
- An evaluation of your investment's performance against your objectives and circumstances
- If pension planning is within scope, we will discuss future projections and comment on whether targets are realistic
- Reviewing cash-flow planning
- Annual valuations
- Meetings with a discretionary fund manager if applicable
- Arranging top-ups or withdrawals from existing pensions and investments as appropriate will be included within this service
- Confirmation of advice costs and charges

Cash-flow planning

We utilise specialist cash-flow planning software to provide a picture of your life in money over time. By mapping your income, expenditure, assets, and goals, we create a detailed picture of your financial future. It is very useful for modelling different scenarios and helping to answer questions such as "when can I afford to retire" or "will I be able to afford long term care".

Cashflow planning is an ongoing process we use to help you make confident financial decisions throughout your life. We regularly review and update the plan to reflect changes in your circumstances, investments, or objectives, testing different scenarios such as retiring earlier, buying a property, or supporting family. This continual review ensures your financial plan remains flexible, realistic, and aligned with what matters most to you.

Protection Planning

It may be an uncomfortable subject but we all need to plan for the unforeseen in life and how this would impact ourselves and our family. We can help you to consider different scenarios which could occur and identify if there are any shortfalls in your protection planning. We can explain what options you have to address these shortfalls and how they would ensure you and your family are able to maintain your lifestyle and still meet your longer-term financial goals, in the event of ill health or death.

Retirement Planning

A key life phase. This is an area of planning which deserves significant time in reviewing for our clients each year. Often in the background, checking on progress of plans and investments you have made to fund your life in retirement. Adapting to market swings and modelling various impact scenarios. Retirement planning is one of the most valuable services we provide our clients. Many of our clients are currently in retirement, following our advice and drawing on their assets to live a stress-free life in retirement. Our retirement planning takes the worry away from our clients.

Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning

We work with other professionals such as solicitors, accountants and tax advisers to assist in providing holistic advice. We can help to understand the value of future liabilities and design and implement strategies to reduce this burden, often saving clients thousands of pounds in potential tax charges. This provides real value and peace of mind that your loved ones will be looked after when they are gone.

Long term Care Planning

Long Term Care can be a complex, emotional and difficult topic. Whether thinking about yourself or exploring options on behalf of a loved one, we will simplify and explain all the options available and how best to plan for them.

Tax Efficiency

Making sure we consider tax reliefs and allowances, enables clients to maximise their after-tax wealth. If you don't take advantage of annual tax reliefs, then you could quite literally be paying more tax than you need to. We can evidence the amount you have potentially saved through our planning.

Investment Proposition and Philosophy

As independent financial advisers, we are not tied to any particular provider or investment house. This means we have access to the whole of the market and can research, recommend, and construct solutions that are truly in our clients' best interests.

We recognise that every client is different. Each individual's goals, circumstances, and attitude to risk are unique — and so should be their investment approach. Our role is to understand these personal factors in depth and recommend an investment strategy that best meets their objectives.

For clients without specific sustainable or ethical preferences, and where the primary aim is to maximise returns relative to risk, we believe that a predominantly **passive investment approach** offers the most cost-effective and consistent solution. This approach focuses on broad market exposure, diversification, and keeping costs low — factors that have been shown to enhance long-term outcomes.

For those who wish to invest **sustainably or with defined personal values**, we offer a range of carefully selected options. We can also explore **discretionary management** solutions where a more bespoke approach is desired.

Our philosophy is grounded in independence, transparency, and evidence-based investing — helping clients achieve their financial goals with clarity and confidence.

Technology

One of the reasons we chose to work with Benchmark, was their technology. Something they have won numerous awards for. Ultimately backed by Schroders, we have every confidence that the security of our client's information within Benchmark's client management technology systems, is in very safe hands. This decision is something we know our clients expect us to get right. It's incredibly important to them and a reason they feel safe working with us.

Market and Product Research and Analysis

To recommend the most suitable solutions for our clients, we use professional tools to conduct research and analysis of provider and product solutions. This ensures we can make recommendations to best meet your needs and goals.

Ongoing Professional Development and training

As Financial Planners, we are required to complete a minimum of 35 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) each year and to evidence the learning we undertake. Regular training and ongoing study ensure we maintain our competence, stay up to date with legislation and industry developments, and continue to provide our clients with the highest standard of advice year after year.

Conclusion

At Midsummer Wealth, our commitment is to deliver exceptional financial planning and wealth management that stands up to the highest standards of professionalism, transparency, and integrity. We believe that true value extends beyond numbers — it is found in the confidence, clarity, and peace of mind our clients gain through trusted, long-term relationships. By combining technical expertise, evidence-based investment strategies, and a personalised approach that reflects each client's unique circumstances and goals, we ensure our service offers fair value in every sense. Through ongoing care, robust governance, and continual professional development, we remain dedicated to helping our clients make informed decisions and achieve lasting financial wellbeing.

Considering all areas included in the assessment of value, we believe the service provided is demonstrating value overall and our service proposition along with this value statement has been approved by our network, Best Practice Ltd

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