

Delivering value through membership





About us

Thank you for your interest in joining the Equity Release Council.

The market for later life financial planning continues to grow. The Council is here to ensure customers are supported by products that are right for them, as well as supporting its members' businesses and the evolution of the market. If you are interested in joining the Council, membership has considerable benefits, including providing advice on best practice, supporting the development of the sector and helping you as professionals provide good consumer outcomes. I'm here to help with any questions you may have about the Council and membership. I hope we'll soon be welcoming you as a new member of this professional, vibrant, innovative and proactive organisation.

Laura Gibson

Membership Business Development Manager

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The Council sets the Standards for the growing equity release market

The Council is the representative body for Lifetime Mortgages and Home Reversion Plans – products that are playing an increasingly important role supporting consumers during their later life financial planning.

The Council has three decades of experience, expertise and detailed knowledge of the market. During this time, it has evolved its Standards to ensure consumers trust that these products are safe and reliable. The most recent update aligned the Standards with an outcomes-based approach and the Council believes they represent the gold standard for property-based later life lending in the UK.

The Council represents, promotes and sets the Standards for the equity release market, while supporting its members' businesses. In addition the Council is playing a proactive role in the evolution of the market.



By joining the Council, members are demonstrating they are committed to delivering high standards of consumer protection and serving their customers with transparency and their best interests at heart.

Guarantees for your customers

Customers can have confidence that Equity Release Council members go beyond statutory regulation to deliver products with key safeguards:



No negative equity guarantee

The product must have a no negative equity guarantee. This means that when the customer's property is sold, and agents' and solicitors' fees have been paid, even if the amount left is not enough to repay the outstanding loan, neither the customer nor their estate will be liable to pay any more.



The right to make repayments

For lifetime mortgages, customers' must have the right to make voluntary penalty-free repayments, subject to lender criteria.



Fixed or capped interest

For lifetime mortgages the rate must be fixed for each release or, if variable, the rate must be capped for the life of the loan.



Secure tenure for life

Customers must have the right to remain in their property for life or until they need to move into long-term care, provided the property remains their main residence and they abide by the terms and conditions of their contract.



The chance to move home

Customers have the right to move to another property, provided the new property is acceptable to the product provider as continuing security for their equity release loan.



Independent legal advice

Customers of Council members also benefit from independent legal advice ensuring the customer fully understands the risks and benefits of the plan.

Becoming a member

Why join the Equity Release Council?

Representation across our market

“ Our membership is the lifeblood of the Council. We continually strive to demonstrate the value of that membership and to develop new added value services. Uniquely, we represent the whole of the value chain which includes funders, providers, advisers, lawyers, surveyors and a range of other professions with an interest in the market. This gives us the mandate and credibility to talk coherently, confidently and with authority about the purpose, interests and potential of our market. ”

Jim Boyd Chief

Executive Officer, Equity Release Council

To hear more from Jim, [click here](#).



Why membership **matters**

Membership of the Council brings stability, continuity and opportunity.



Stability

Over the last 30 years, the Council and its predecessor (Safe Home Income Plans) have evolved their Standards to ensure they offer the highest level of protection for equity release customers. Standards will always be at the core of the Council's reason for being.



Continuity

The Council will continue to represent the sector's entire value chain and provide stewardship of the market, prioritising customer outcomes and building confidence through a strong brand which will provide a badge of trust for consumers.



Opportunity

As the market continues to evolve, the Council will lead these developments to ensure it is always relevant in its outlook and activities.

The member **trustmark**



The endorsement mark has been created to provide a strong and recognisable visual statement of quality, reassurance, professionalism and trust for customers.

- The new endorsement mark is for the exclusive use of members of the Equity Release Council.
- As a mark of quality, Standards and best practice, it assures potential customers that the member can be trusted as they represent the gold standard for the equity release market.
- Members are encouraged to use the mark on all their corporate and customer marketing and communications activities in print, digital and social.
- One simple, easy to apply artwork is available for all potential applications and all design styles and formats.

Further information on using the Council's endorsement mark is available in the Members' Lounge on the Council's website. You will have access to this when you become a member.



Our commitment to our members

The Council is committed to working with members and the wider market to ensure all customers benefit from good outcomes.

The Council represents the market and is valued by stakeholders by being:



Authoritative

At the vanguard of substantiated, credible, evidence-led market insights, knowledge and data.



Progressive

The advocate of market change, innovation, improvement, inclusion and reform.



Incisive

Having clarity of thought, committed decision-making and the rigour to deliver the right solution and outcome.



Trustworthy

Inspiring confidence, reliability and transparency across all stakeholders.

Membership also brings **business benefits** such as:

Visibility

Inclusion in the member directory, which ensures customers can contact you with confidence.

Representation

The authority of the Council's voice which speaks with confidence to government, regulators, consumers and the media, on the behalf of its members.

Invitation

Opportunities to network and check-in with thought leadership trends at events, including regional seminars, the Parliamentary reception and the Equity Release Summit*.

Information

Regular newsletters, technical reports, market data and political and regulatory analysis.

Influence

The chance to contribute to reports, activities and consultations and input on Council boards, forums, committees and working groups, helping to shape the debate on the issues affecting the sector.

Resources

Access to workshops, presentations, downloadable guides and other key documents like the adviser checklist and competency framework, as well as exclusive access to the Members' Lounge on the Council's website.

**Some events may be chargeable.*

Your commitment
to the Council
and the market will
protect your standing.

The Equity Release Council stands for a customer-led market with rigorous Standards and safeguards that members must adhere to.

The Council ask that members nurture and protect its values at all times to ensure the integrity of the Council's brand, and the good standing of its members.



Testimonials

What some of **our members** say

“ Having worked with the Equity Release Council for a number of years, including as a board member, I know from personal experience that they are an organisation which cares deeply about good customer outcomes. They are also passionate about supporting members and offer access to valuable resources that enable businesses to properly embrace opportunities in a market that is evolving rapidly and is of vital societal importance. Membership of the Equity Release Council is a must for any organisation that has a serious interest in the later life lending sector.

Will Hale, CEO, Key

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“ The Equity Release Council has continually shown itself to be a force for progressive development within the later life lending space, where best practice is shared and where resources abound for those seeking information and support to help them best serve their customers. The opportunity to mix with like-minded professionals while also benefiting from representation for the sector and the ability to access member-only products, market analysis and display a kite-mark associated with excellence means that the opportunity to become a Council member is a worthwhile investment for anyone wanting to take the most of this emerging market.

Paul Carter, CEO, Pure Retirement

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“ I would recommend any firm working in the equity release sector to apply for membership of the Council. Membership gives a clear signal to consumers that the firm is committed to safeguarding customers' interests, crucial to maintaining public confidence in our sector. It also brings members the benefits of shared expertise and a strong voice ensuring our views are heard by decision makers beyond our industry. Just has been a proud member of the Equity Release Council since it was founded and we feel any organisation should consider membership as an essential part of doing business in our sector.

Paul Turner, Managing Director, Retail, Just Group

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Start your membership application today

Contact Laura Gibson, Membership Business Development Manager at laura.gibson@equityreleasecouncil.com to start your membership application.

To find out more about the Council and benefits of being a member visit www.equityreleasecouncil.com



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Always seek qualified financial advice. v240328.