THE WHY, WHO, WHAT AND HOW OF LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL
WHY

Why do I need a Will?
Your Will tells everyone what should happen to your money, possessions and property after you die (all these things together are called your ‘estate’). Having a professionally written, up-to-date Will is the only way to make sure that the people and causes you love and care about are looked after. If you don’t leave a Will, the law decides how your estate is passed on – and this may not be in line with your wishes.

Why should I consider leaving a gift to Penny Brohn UK?
Those who choose to leave a gift in their Will to Penny Brohn UK all have different reasons for doing so. Sometimes they leave a gift in tribute to a loved one they’ve lost, or as a dedication to someone who survived cancer. Often, it is to offer unconditional support and reassurance to others, ensuring that they never have to face cancer alone.

I can see a future now, supported by Penny Brohn and thank the team, from the bottom of my heart, for the legacy they have left and all those who continue that legacy.

Sue
WHY

Use your Will to make sure cancer does not stand in the way of making a life as good as it can be.

Someone is diagnosed with cancer every two minutes in the UK. With ever increasing advances in medical treatment we are now twice as likely to live for at least 10 years following a diagnosis than we were in the 1970’s when Penny Brohn UK was founded. Today, the challenge for many is not dying, but living well.

Cancer changes everything - for the person diagnosed and for all those who love them.

We want and need doctors to provide us with exceptional medical care. But people need more than medicine alone. They need to do more than just survive. To truly live well with cancer, people need to feel empowered to reclaim control of their health; to recover what it was that made them feel whole in the first place; and to rediscover the joy of living.
Living Well

Our Living Well services offer personalised whole person support from the point of cancer diagnosis into treatment and throughout survivorship. Combining holistic services, complementary therapies and lifestyle education to focus on the emotional, psychological and physical needs of someone with cancer alongside standard medical treatment to achieve the best health and wellbeing.

A gift in your Will would ensure we are here for people affected by cancer today, tomorrow and well into the future.

I credit the NHS with saving my life and Penny Brohn with showing me how to live it.

Jennie
Who needs a Will?
It’s important for everyone to have a Will. You might think that you don’t have enough to leave, but when you think about everything you own, for example a car, house and other personal items, you often realise it’s more than you thought.

Who should write or update my Will?
We would always recommend using a professional solicitor to write or update your Will to be sure that all legal formalities are carried out correctly and that your Will is valid (i.e. correctly written and witnessed).

The Law Society of England and Wales (www.lawsociety.org.uk) can help you find a solicitor local to you. If you’re based in Scotland, The Law Society of Scotland (www.lawscot.org.uk) can do the same for your area.

When someone has cancer, hope is the most important thing you can give them – and that’s exactly what Penny Brohn does.

David
What do the following legal terms mean?

**Estate:** your estate is the total value of everything you own – after any outstanding debts have been paid.

**Assets:** your assets are the things you own that are worth money, such as a house, car, savings, shares, jewellery and art.

**Executor:** your executor is the person or people you choose to make sure that the terms of your Will – your wishes – are carried out. This can be a professional (i.e. a solicitor, bank or Will writer), friend, or relative. It is best to choose two executors, in case one is unable to carry out your wishes.

**Legal Guardian(s):** If your children are under 18, you can appoint Legal Guardians in your Will to care for your children.

**Liabilities:** your liabilities are the things you owe money on, such as a mortgage, credit cards, hire purchase agreements or other debts.

**What types of gifts can I leave?**

Here are some examples of the typical types of gifts you can leave in your Will. However, there are further ways you can leave a gift and we would advise you to speak to a solicitor if you’re interested in leaving an alternative gift.

- **A Residuary gift:** a share of your estate. This gift retains its value over time and is a percentage of everything that is left over after all debts, bills, taxes and specific sum gifts have been paid. It can be split into shares or percentages.

- **A Pecuniary gift:** a specific amount of money.

- **A Specific gift:** such as a house, a painting, jewellery, stocks and shares or an antique.

**What is Inheritance Tax?**

Inheritance Tax (IHT) is a tax on your estate (the property, money and possessions) once all debts have been deducted. Your estate will owe tax at 40% on anything above the £325,000 inheritance tax threshold when you die; for married couples it is £650,000.

It is strongly advised that professional advice is taken where any IHT liability is likely to arise. You can find guidance on the HMRC website at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax).
What can I do to minimise my Inheritance Tax liability?

There are various ways of doing this, for example if you are married or by the types of gifts you make during your lifetime and in your Will.

By remembering a charity, such as Penny Brohn UK, in your Will you may be able to reduce your tax liability. Gifts to charities are 100% tax free and are taken out of your estate before any tax is calculated.

This may mean that leaving a gift to a charity reduces, or eliminates your Inheritance Tax liability. Make sure that you speak with your solicitor for further information and advice about Inheritance Tax liability.

How do I need to word a gift in my Will?

The following is suggested wording to give to your solicitor when leaving a gift in your Will to Penny Brohn UK.

Residuary gift (share of my estate): ‘Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, I give the whole (residuary) or ______% of my estate not otherwise disposed of by this my Will to Penny Brohn UK (Penny Brohn Cancer Care, registered charity number: 284881) of Chapel Pill Lane, Pill, Bristol, BS20 0HH, for the general purposes of Penny Brohn UK and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer at Penny Brohn UK shall be a full and sufficient discharge. I further declare that if before my death Penny Brohn UK has changed its name or amalgamated with or transferred all its assets to any other body then my Trustees shall give effect to the gift as if it has been made to the body in its changed name or to the body which results from the amalgamation or to which the transfer has been made.’

Pecuniary gift (cash gift): ‘I give free of tax to Penny Brohn UK (Penny Brohn Cancer Care, registered charity number: 284881) of Chapel Pill Lane, Pill, Bristol, BS20 0HH, the sum of £______ for the general purposes of Penny Brohn UK and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer at Penny Brohn UK shall be a full and sufficient discharge.’

Specific gift: ‘I give to Penny Brohn UK (Penny Brohn Cancer Care, registered charity number: 284881) of Chapel Pill Lane, Pill, Bristol, BS20 0HH, (write here the items you want to give) to be applied for its general purposes, and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer at Penny Brohn UK shall be good and sufficient discharge.’

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Our Legacy Promise to you

Thank you for considering to include Penny Brohn UK in your Will. We know that your first priority when making a Will is to provide for your loved ones, but many people find that even after they’ve done this they would still like to leave something to a cause close to their heart. By choosing to remember us in your Will, you will be helping us to provide valuable emotional, physical and practical support to those seeking to live well with cancer, for many years to come. We are very touched that you might consider Penny Brohn UK and we hope that doing so will be one of the most rewarding decisions you will make.

1. We promise to make your gift go as far as we can. We will use your gift carefully and cost effectively so that it has the greatest impact for people living with cancer.
2. We promise to treat you and your family with courtesy, sensitivity and respect. We understand that family and friends come first when planning your Will.
3. We promise to always respect your privacy - you choose how often we contact you and by what means.
4. We promise not to pressure you about your decisions about leaving a gift to us in your Will. It is your decision and you need to make it in your own time.
5. We promise to share as much information as you and your family would like to know about what gifts like yours can achieve.
6. We promise to handle any personal information you choose to give us securely and confidentially.

How to take the next step

We hope this booklet has helped to answer your questions and you are now ready to write or update your Will. If you have any further questions or comments about this pack, please contact our legacy officer on 01275 370108 or email legacy@pennybrohn.org.uk. We can also help you to take the next step with the Will planner enclosed.