Towards the New Model for UK Retail Financial Services

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Outline

- A short history of the life industry
- Is the present business model bust?
- External influences
- Towards the new model
- Future landscape

A short history of the life industry

From 1800 to mid 1960s

- Industrial Assurance
- Monthly premiums collected by inspectors
- Relationship-based
- Effective but expensive
- Mounting expense pressures
A short history of the life industry
Mid 1960s to early 2000s

- Aggressive direct sales
- Transactional based
- Fuelled by higher and higher rates of initial commission
- Model failures
- Fall in UK life and pensions earned premiums
  - from £95bn in 2001 to £80bn in 2004 (surge in 2005 to £88bn influenced by increased pensions re-cycling ahead of A-Day)
- Aggregate of life offices cashflow has turned negative

Sources – Cazalet Consulting and Standard Life

A short history of the life industry
Early 2000s to the present

- Over emphasis on new business rather than developing long term customer relationships
- Very competitive market
- EEV reporting system up fronts profits
- UK commission rates are very high in international terms
- Persistency rates have deteriorated
- Total industry new business of £11.2bn (APE) – approx 60% recycled business and 40% true new business

Sources – Cazalet Consulting, ABI and Standard Life

Is the present business model bust?

- "My contention is that we have a system which serves neither the producer of the services nor the consumer of the services. It is doubtful whether it serves the intermediary either."

- "The present distribution system is distinguished by a focus on business volume rather than quality."

- "...persistency of policies is low with, for example, around half of customers who buy regular premium personal pensions no longer paying into them after four years."
Is the present business model bust?

- "...the present remuneration model suffers from product bias, provider bias and churn."

- "...as at May 2006, the top 21 IFAs had turnover of £640 million but operating losses of £22 million..."

- "...we have at present a business model which is based on incentives which produce results which are unattractive to reputable providers, unattractive to their customers and whose benefits to intermediaries are questionable. What are we going to do to change it?"

Sir Callum McCarthy, Chairman, FSA
Gleneagles Savings & Pensions Industry Leaders’ Summit
16 September 2006

External influences

Demography
- Ageing of population
- Baby-boomer generation starting to panic with looming retirement
- Increasing weight of money

Technology
- Broadband
- British Airways

External influences

Aussie experience
- Wrap platforms account for more than 80% of new fund flow
- 55 platforms available
- Assets concentrated on top six (mainly bank owned)
- White labelling is common
- Discretionary financial advice and fee based planning are growing steadily
- Typical fees/commissions are 1% to 3% initial, 50 bpts ongoing
- Customer-adviser-provider interests aligned
- Win, win, win
Towards the new model

Traditional sales model

- Product sales skills
- Getting the client to commit
- Remunerated on the basis of future premium income
- Prospecting critical
- Lots of sales, few clients
- Paid by the product provider
- Initial commission expected to pay for lifetime service cost
- to...

Towards the new model

New trusted adviser model

- Discounted access to the whole market
- Collectives
- Corporate Bonds
- Equities
- Gilts
- Commercial Property
- Cash
- Multi Managers
- Stock indices
- Multi managers

Towards the new model

From the traditional sales model
Towards the new model

…the trusted adviser model

- Communication skills and consultative relationships
- High client satisfaction
- Assets under advice
- Remunerated on assets and new sales - working for and paid by the client
- Fewer sales, more real clients
- Pro-active and efficient service - client peace of mind
- Long term profitable relationships
- Increased share of wallet

Future landscape

- Place the customer at the centre of all we do
- Take advantage of technological advances
- Return to building valuable long-term relationships
- Align interests of customer-adviser-provider