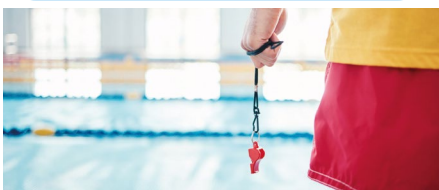


## Work/life balance

➤ **People's Partnership, provider of People's Pension chief investment officer, Dan Mikulskis, speaks about his varied experience in the pension space, love of 90s music and a typical week in his life**

### Work:



➤ **Do you have any unusual job experience outside of working in the industry?**

My first job as a teenager was a pool lifeguard. I also worked as a beach lifeguard when I lived in Australia.

➤ **How did you end up working in the pensions sector?**

I did an actuarial science course as a part of my master's degree and was quite drawn to it, for my sins. I also considered the professional qualifications to be an attraction – little

did I know how many weekends that meant studying for the actuarial exams!

➤ **What path did your pensions career take that led you to your current role?**

I have been really fortunate to work for some great employers in the sector. Most of my career has been in consulting, which gives a fascinating oversight into so many different aspects of pensions and investment and allows you to work with a really varied set of pension funds.

The nature of the companies I worked for was also really interesting with one being a large global corporate, one a growth startup and finally a UK focused employee-owned partnership, all offering really different insights into the implications of different types of company.

➤ **What's one thing about your job that you particularly enjoy or are proud of?**

The strength of the purpose here at People's Partnership is really unique and special and puts a spring in my step every day, and I know it's the same for a lot of my colleagues.

➤ **If you weren't working in pensions now, what would you be doing?**

Probably something adjacent in the investment industry, such as asset management or wealth management.

➤ **What's the best piece of career wisdom you've been told, or acquired yourself?**

Write. Good writers are better thinkers. There are so many upsides to getting your thoughts down on paper in a structured way and publishing it.

### A typical work/life week:

#### ➤ Monday

Typically, I'm up early to get in a gym session or a run every day before the boys wake up. The work week starts in Crawley at our HQ for a morning with the management team. We start with a quick 'standup' meeting to review progress on key strategic projects across the business, followed by a management team meeting where we might be reviewing strategy, financial plans or approving projects. It's a relatively long train ride home from Crawley so I'll be catching up on podcasts. With any luck, I'll be home in time for the boys' bedtime.



#### ➤ Tuesday

I'm in London with the investment team and we start the morning with a scan ahead looking out over all our deliverables as a team over the next few weeks and months. We have 30 in the team and the ability to get everyone in one large conference room and fully aligned on priorities and deliverables is really powerful.

That meeting usually triggers a series of smaller catch-ups and project meetings over the rest of the morning to pick up loose ends and drive things forward to ensure that different parts of the team are coming together to deliver cross-cutting projects. In the afternoon, I might have meetings with managers or providers.

## Life:



### ➤ What do you like to do in your spare time? Any hobbies?

Two young boys (three and five) keep me busy but I like my sports and try to run (targeting Spartan races), play tennis when I can and waterski in the summer (my wife's family are big into waterskiing).

### ➤ Is there a particular sport/team that you follow?

England rugby and cricket mainly.

### ➤ If you had to choose one favourite book, which would you recommend people read?

One of the best books I've read in the last decade is *Shoe Dog* by Phil Knight – an absolute page turner and combines my interest in business and sports.

### ➤ What film/boxset do you most enjoy?

Recent favourite watches have included the *Ambassador*, *White Lotus* and *Industry*.

### ➤ Do you have any music/band/song suggestions?

My Spotify wrapped suggests an odd mix of Van Morrison, the theme music to *Frozen*, Paul Simon and Justin Bieber. But really the 90s is undefeated in terms of musical appeal and I will not hear any disagreement to that!

### ➤ What's one of the most interesting places you've travelled to?

About 15 years ago, I backpacked from one end of Java (Indonesia) to the other by myself over the course of about two weeks. I think I had one conversation with another native English-speaker that entire time. A fascinating experience.

### ➤ What's your go-to comfort food?

Steak frites and a glass of red wine.

### ➤ Who would be your dream dinner party guests?

Andre Agassi & Steffi Graf, Jonny Wilkinson, Dave Grohl, Toto Wolff, Joe Weisenthal & Tracy Alloway (Bloomberg presenters).

### ➤ If you could meet any historical figure, who would it be and why?

John Maynard Keynes. A long-term strategic thinker making important decisions in a tricky but pivotal time for the world. He set the scene for many of the long-term institutions that survived for decades afterward and saw things others didn't.

### ➤ Do you have a favourite quote or saying?

Life can only be understood backwards, but must be lived forwards – Soren Kierkegaard.



### ➤ Wednesday

I am typically at home and on point for school and nursery drop-offs. During the day, I might have catch-ups with non-exec directors and IC members, as well as progressing my own key working projects.

### ➤ Thursday

I'm in London again with my team and the day is typically centred around a team meeting where one area in the team updates the rest of the group on performance, recent changes or investment views. We will typically also hold our Management Investment Committee, which is where we arrive at key decisions on which we will advise our trustee.

### ➤ Friday

Friday is typically working from home and I will often have

one-to-one catch-ups with my direct reports, including our asset class heads, and I might have calls with external parties, introductory meetings or updates on in-flight projects. With any luck, I get some time and space to do some more big picture blue sky thinking. Once work is done, we usually try and have a family pizza and movie night.

### ➤ Saturday

Saturday is a big one for the boys' activities and we have mini rugby for our eldest followed by swimming lessons. Afternoon we try to relax a bit at home.

### ➤ Sunday

Sunday morning is junior parkrun and an opportunity for me to grab a quick game of tennis after.