

## **Simon O'Neill**

### **BIOG**

Simon O'Neill qualified as a registered nurse in 1989 and specialised in paediatrics in 1991. Following several years working in both general and renal paediatrics, he moved to Diabetes UK in 1995 as a nurse care adviser.

Twenty eight years later he is still there, although now as Director of Care and Clinical Intelligence. As Director he is responsible for ensuring Diabetes UK produces accurate and up to date information and advice on all aspects of diabetes and diabetes care, based on the latest evidence. Working closely with healthcare professional colleagues, he also advises on the charity's policies and positions. He has had Type 1 diabetes for 31 years.

### **ABSTRACT**

Social prescribing is a way of enabling healthcare professionals to refer patients to a linkworker, to co-design a non-clinical social prescription to improve their health and wellbeing in order to address wider social determinants of health, such as loneliness, poverty and other social ills. In this talk I hope to explain what social prescribing is and how it works in practice, including who is involved. I will also look at why we need social prescribing and how could it help in diabetes management, with some practical examples of how we have been using it in the UK. And I'll finish with some signposting to where you can learn more about it and how you might start to use it