



Dermot O'Hara

I am a founding member of the Destined organization that provides services for 150 people with learning disabilities from two centres – one in Derry City and the other in Feeny County Derry and offers support to a number of individuals resident in the Tyrone and Donegal areas. Prior to setting up Destined I established the Derry branch of P.A.P.A. the autism group.

I have extensive knowledge and experience of the learning disability sector including the statutory and community organisations and has been involved in most of the strategic and policy consultations regarding the overall direction of service provision and support for the sector. The Destined model of service delivery is recognized for its good practice. I am currently involved in the establishment of a North West Centre for Learning Disabilities to be based in the landmark Foyle Valley Railway Museum in the city.

I am a member of the Bamford Monitoring group that was appointed by the Department of Health to monitor the implementation of the Bamford strategy across the five Health Trust areas.

My background was in finance, business and accountancy with a particular focus on enterprise development. I was the financial director of An Gaeláras during the development of its £4.5m Irish language Centre and am currently chairperson of the Outerwest Neighbourhood Partnership and also the Glen Development Initiative who are centrally involved in a development consisting of 80 housing units and a new community centre.

I am the current PPI representative on the Western Trust's Research Committee.