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An article on the impact or otherwise UK learning disability policy changes on South Asian families with a member with learning disability prompts a number of policy and practice lessons:

- South Asia is a big place, and generalisations about people from different ethnic groups, language groups, religious groups, economic groups, and indeed different family and personal starting points, don't help much.
- Service principles are shaped by the beliefs of those who draw up the principles, and those beliefs may not be shared by all those who use the services. Sometimes services do have to challenge families, and indeed challenge individuals with learning disabilities, because the status quo is blatantly and abusively wrong. But quite often the family approach and/or the individual choice are just different from the service cultural norm, not worse or better. In that case, maybe services could be more respectful and indeed supportive, and less inflexible and dictatorial.

Without this willingness to adapt, we are in danger of another version of the age old 'You can have what you like, provided that it is what we want to give you'.

Extract from Brian McGinnis, Ex Mencap