



North West

At 84 years of age Mr Bahal Singh OBE is a full time carer for his 40 year old son Harjeet Singh in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. As the result of a recent spell of illness which meant that Mr Bahal Singh had to be hospitalised, Harjeet was left to manage his own needs.

Despite being reluctant to seek outside help, the aTENSION project heard about the Singh family's plight. A full assessment, with the family's permission, by Social Services, was undertaken. Our project was able to help clarify the social, religious and economic needs of the Singh family who are practising Sikhs within the Punjabi community.

The recommendation of the assessment was for Mr Bahal Singh to join individual budget and direct payment schemes which offer the flexibility the Singh household needs. In addition, a support worker has been assigned to help Mr Bahal Singh at home and take him out to community and religious events, a support worker has also be allocated to his son Harjeet giving him greater independence to meet his own needs.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Harjeet Singh Son and service user
Bahal Singh Father and carer

I did not know about direct payments or individual budgets, but it's an excellent way to meet our everyday needs. This way of managing the finances has helped us with the costs of maintaining cultural and religious practises.

Bahal Singh OBE