

The College

Land Transactions Handbook

The Executive and Finance Committee recently agreed that the following extracts from the DHSS *Land Transactions Handbook* should be published for information:

Use of Receipts from Land Sales – Local interests

Proceeds of sale will normally accrue to the hospital or other institution concerned, or to the District Health Authority. The purpose of this is to promote and sustain local interest in a continuing review of land holdings and property surplus to requirements. In arranging the disposal of proceeds in this way account will need to be taken of benefits a disposing body may already have received, e.g. where disposal is possible because new facilities have been provided. Where it is not practicable or equitable to arrange for the proceeds of disposal to be devoted wholly or partly to the hospital or other institution concerned, the possibility of providing some benefit to the district or area should be considered. The responsibility for ensuring that the proceeds of sale are applied in this way will rest on the RHA.

Use of Receipts from Land Sales – Hospitals for Mentally Ill and Mentally Handicapped

The same principles as in the paragraph above should apply in disposing of land and property at hospitals for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, but in circumstances where receipts from sales cannot be wholly or partly devoted to the disposing hospital, the RHA should ensure that, unless there are exceptional reasons, such receipts should be used specifically to develop services for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped. This might be through the improvement of health services – for example, in the provision where possible of a psychiatric department on a DGH site – or the receipts might be used through the joint financing arrangements... for the development of local authority personal social services in the community, such as hostels for the mentally handicapped.”

The *Handbook* is currently under revision. Because of recently expressed anxieties about the use of funds released, the Department has decided to limit further the ability of Health Authorities to make exceptions to the general principle that these monies should be devoted to the development of services for the mentally ill and handicapped.

Foreign language speaking psychiatrists

From time to time enquiries are received from members of the College regarding patients who are unable to speak English. We are asked if we can give the name of a psychiatrist able to communicate with the patient in his native language. We do keep a list of members who are fluent in foreign languages and I should be grateful if any member who is able and willing to help in this way would write to me giving

the relevant particulars so that this list can be expanded.

It has been agreed that this list should be forwarded to the central offices of the Mental Health Act Commission as well as being held at the College.

VANESSA CAMERON
The Secretary

Election of Registrar

Dr Ann Gath was recently elected Registrar following a postal ballot. Dr Gath will take office at

the Annual General Meeting in Brighton on 6 July 1988.