



Compliance: Sponsor management

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PBS Sponsorship

Sponsorship is the central compliance arm of the Points Based System

Sponsor compliance is key to tackling illegal working and abuse of the student route

The introduction of sponsorship increased Agency contact with immigration system users

To manage this a robust visit regime is essential



Immigration Control

Recruitment is genuine and robust

Importance of Immigration Status is understood and monitored

A continuity check is maintained

This is the part that you have to play – and what we will check



currently have over 28,000 sponsors across all tiers of the Points Based System

Since each tier went live:

Tier 2

22,751 sponsors

1% of the sponsors issue nearly 50% of all CoS

Tier 4

2,124 sponsors

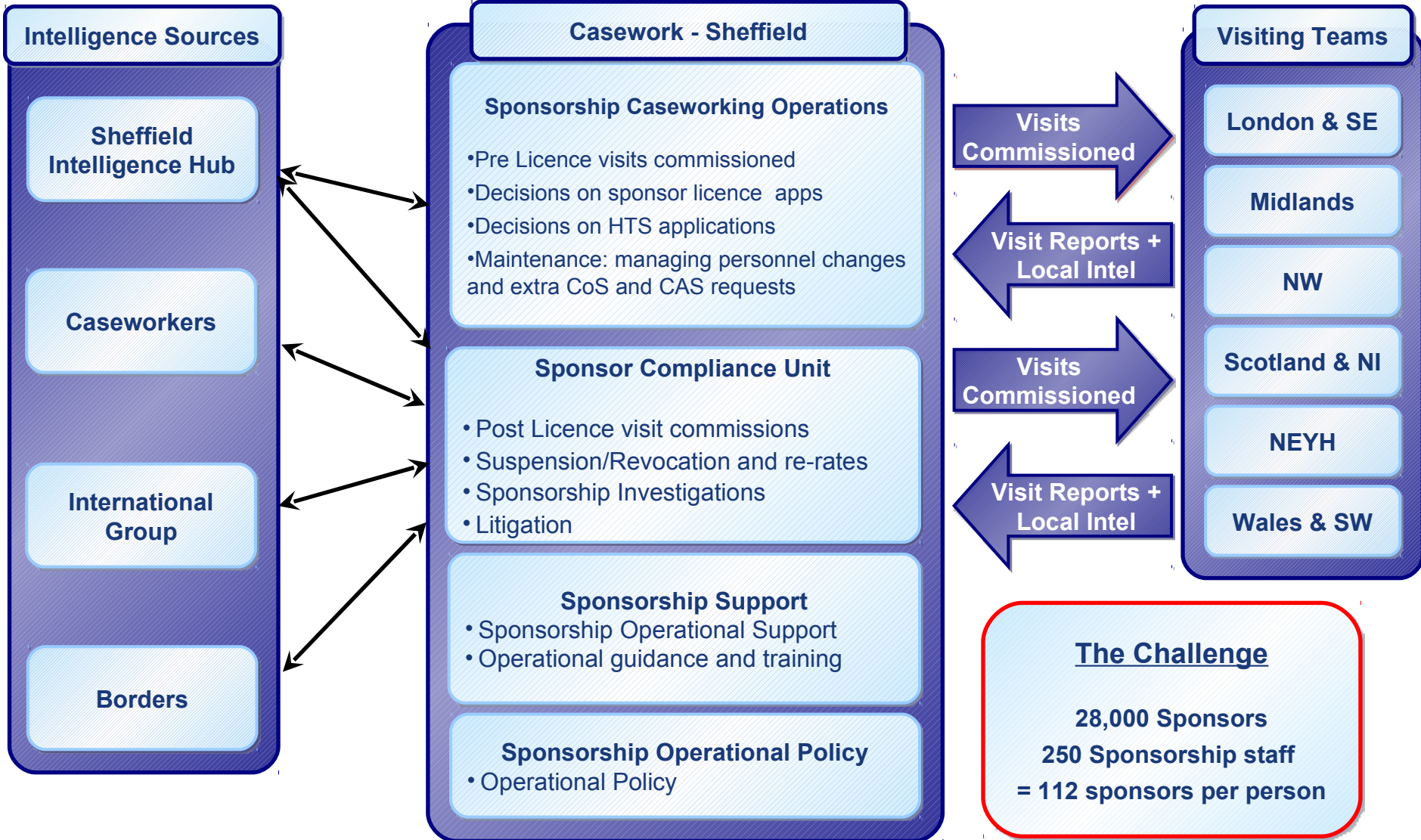
Before PBS, there were over 4,000 institutions registered to bring in overseas students

Tier 5

3,503 sponsors

The largest group of sponsors in Tier 5 is from the Arts and Entertainment sector

Intelligence led compliance model



Targeted Operations

Red: national operations,
external resource e.g. Police

Amber: monthly tasking
issued by central operations
and regionally identified
targets

Green: Decision related visits



Sponsorship Investigations Team

Dedicated Desk Officers

Coordinate visits and outcomes



We may also see you.....

At the request of the sponsor – help and advice

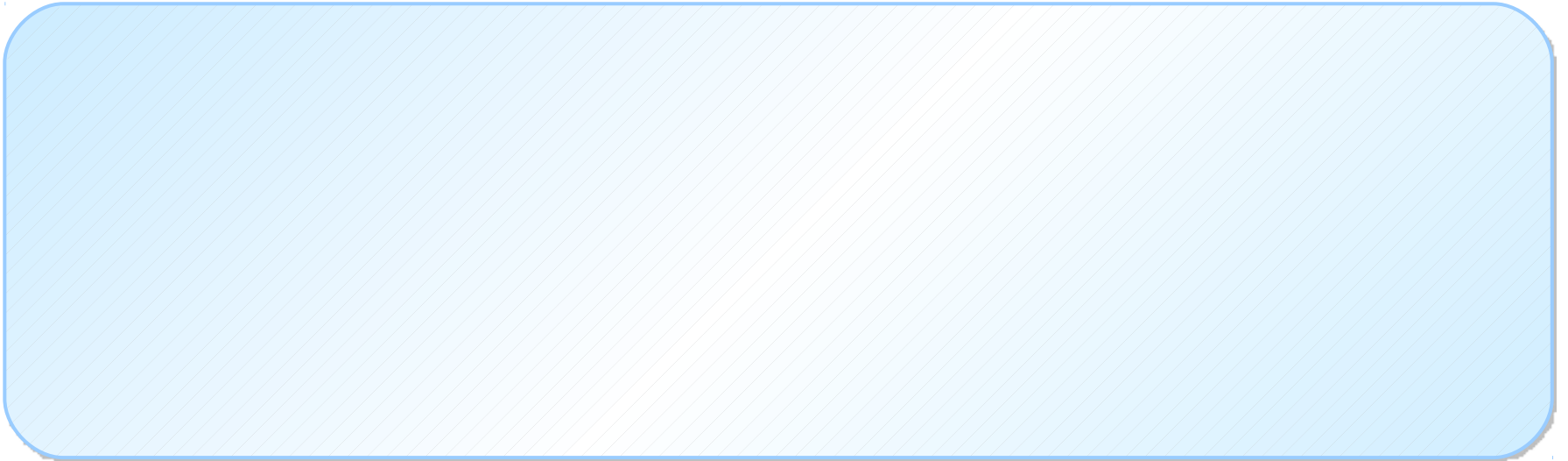
Officers attend events and forums

Fact-finding visits – for example specific students

Issue meetings – for example partnerships



What can you expect?

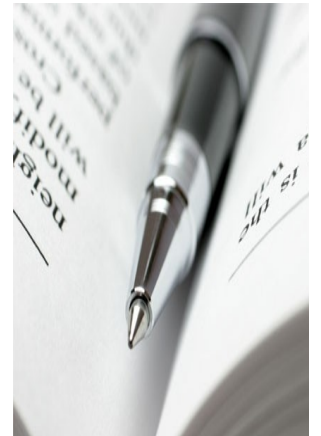


Determine the **type of visit** – and make appropriate security checks

Undertake necessary **research** e.g. previous interactions

Plan **scope of visit** – how many files, how many students?

Inform sponsor – if an **announced** visit



What areas will we check

Monitoring immigration status and preventing illegal employment

- *Control*

Maintaining migrant contact details

- *Continuity*

Record keeping and recruitment practices

- *Recruitment*

Migrant checking and monitoring

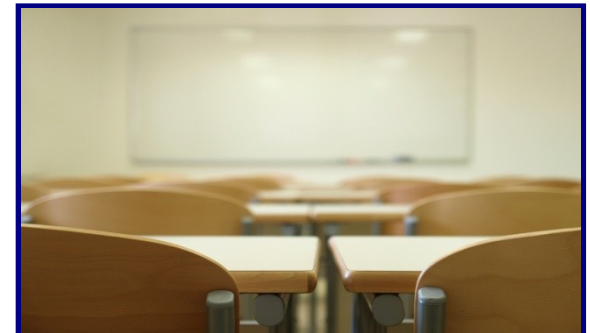
- *Continuity*

Other sponsor checks:

- This may include areas such as partnership links and course types

Student Interviews:

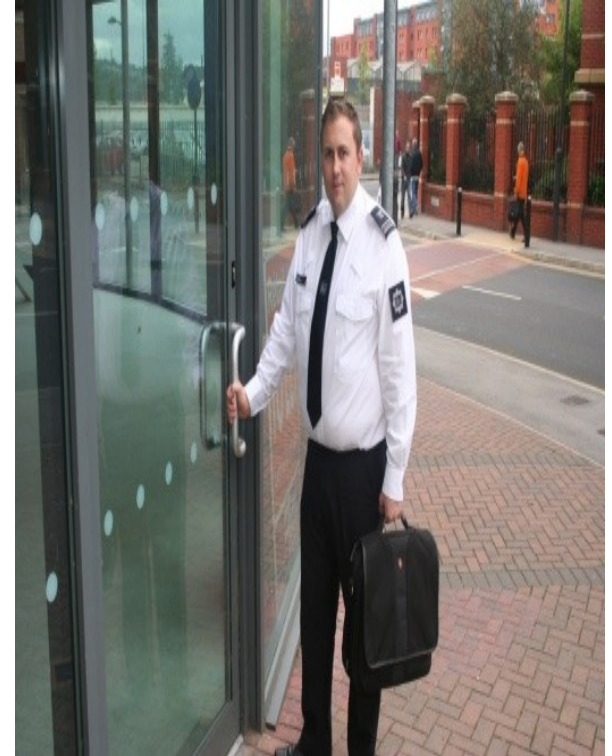
- Not intended to be an interrogation
- This is about student welfare and experiences
- Not necessarily about sponsor compliance – although issues maybe identified from these interviews



Professional and courteous approach with a willingness to discuss issues

Staff to be in **uniform** and have appropriate identification

Visit to be undertaken **in line with published guidance** – “Sponsor Management Guidance”



We will not provide

A decision on the day of the visit

Instant answers to questions on all areas of UK Border Agency activity
(although the officer should take the question away and provide an answer in due course)

Disclosure of intelligence **sources**



What we expect

Access to premises – announced or unannounced

Cooperation and provision of documents

Assistance in **organising** student interviews



We will provide you with a **copy of the visit report** once our action is completed

We are actively seeking to improve our methods of **gathering of feedback** from visits

Complaints, queries or even positive feedback regarding visits? We have introduced the role of “Regional Liaison Officer” – **Lizzi Thompson**. You can contact her at:
Sponsormanagementdesk@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Compliance Improvement Work

New **guidance** – available on our website

New **report formats** and mechanisms

Re-focused the visiting role and introduced **uniforms**

Implemented a new **tasking model**

National Steering Group – regional consistency of approach

Developing a new **training package** for officers

Issues to Consider

1 What would help you to further understand our expectations?

2 How can we gain a better on-going understanding of your experiences?

3 Anything we should consider for our overall improvement strategy?

