

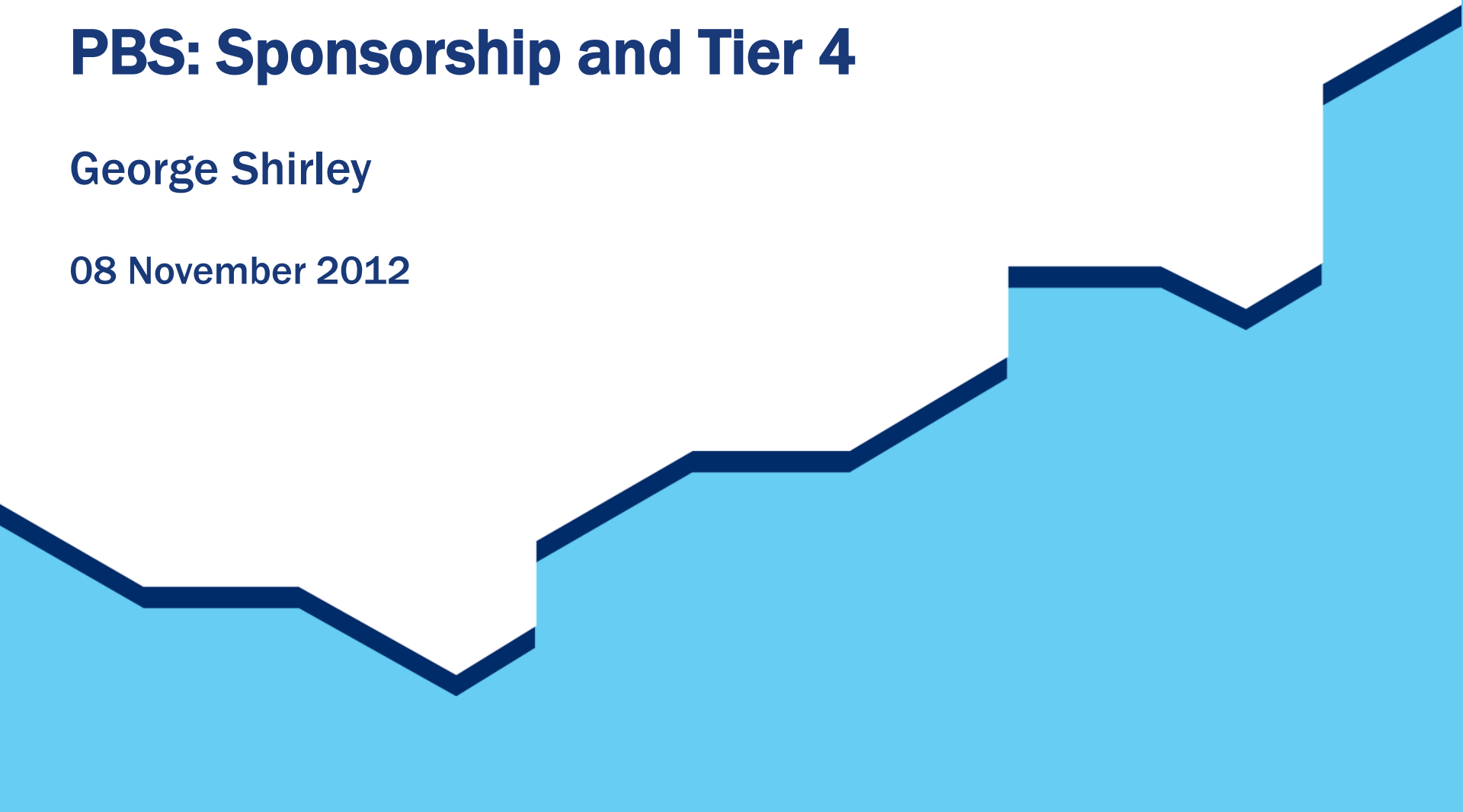


SECURING  
OUR BORDER  
CONTROLLING  
MIGRATION

# PBS: Sponsorship and Tier 4

George Shirley

08 November 2012



# Sponsorship

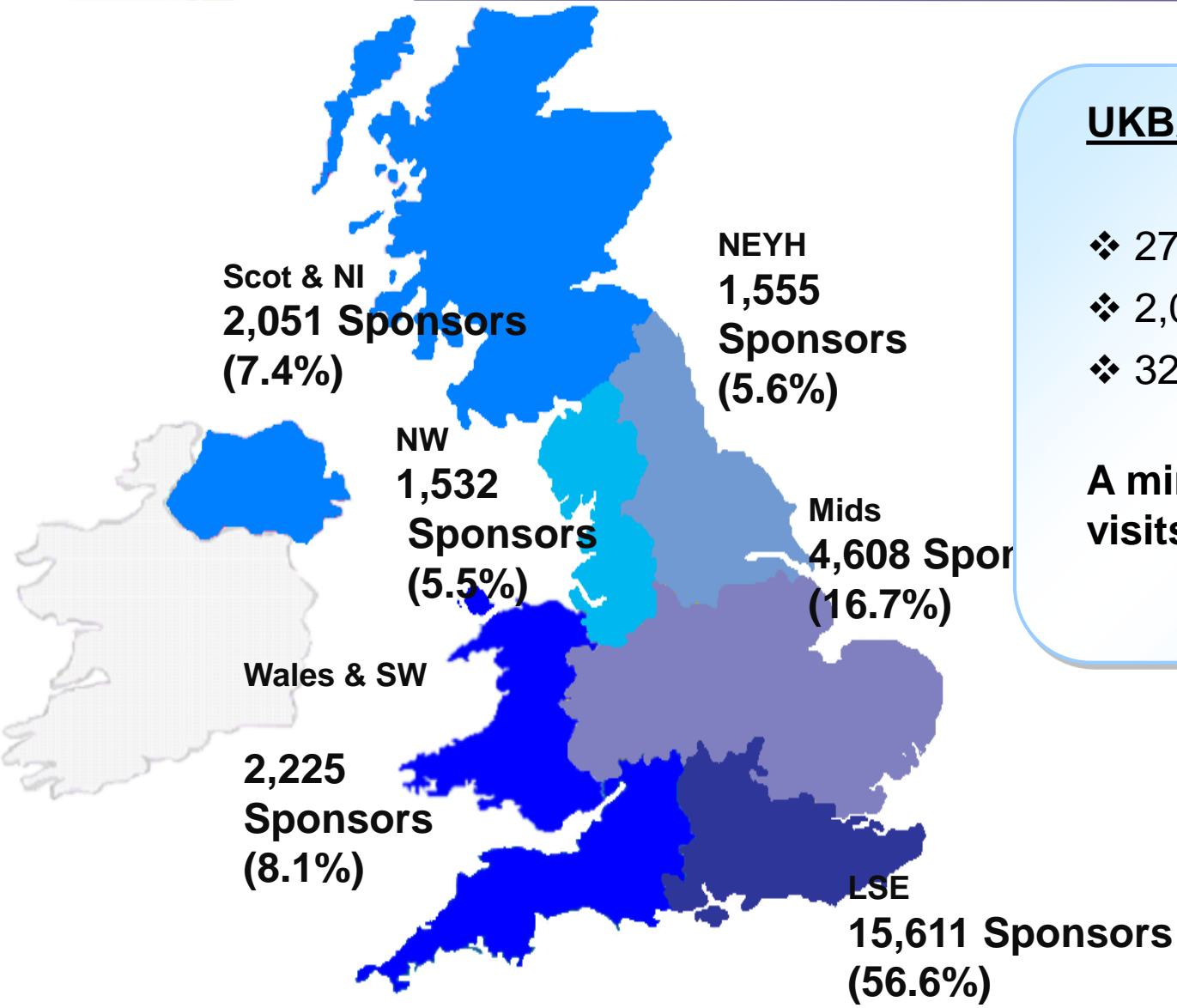
## George Shirley

Head of PBS Sponsorship

Immigration and Settlement Directorate



# UKBA Sponsor Operations



## UKBA OPERATIONS

- ❖ 27,000 sponsors
- ❖ 2,000 (T4) sponsors
- ❖ 32 visits each day

**A minimum of 50% visits are unannounced**

# Sponsorship Operations

## Sponsorship Casework Operations

- Pre-licence
- Post-licence
- HTS
- Premium
- Renewals

## Sponsorship Compliance

- Visits
- Compliance casework
- Litigation

## Sponsorship Support

- System development
- Support functions
- Guidance

# 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



# 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



# We may see you.....

Compliance Assessment – we visit all Tier 4 sponsors

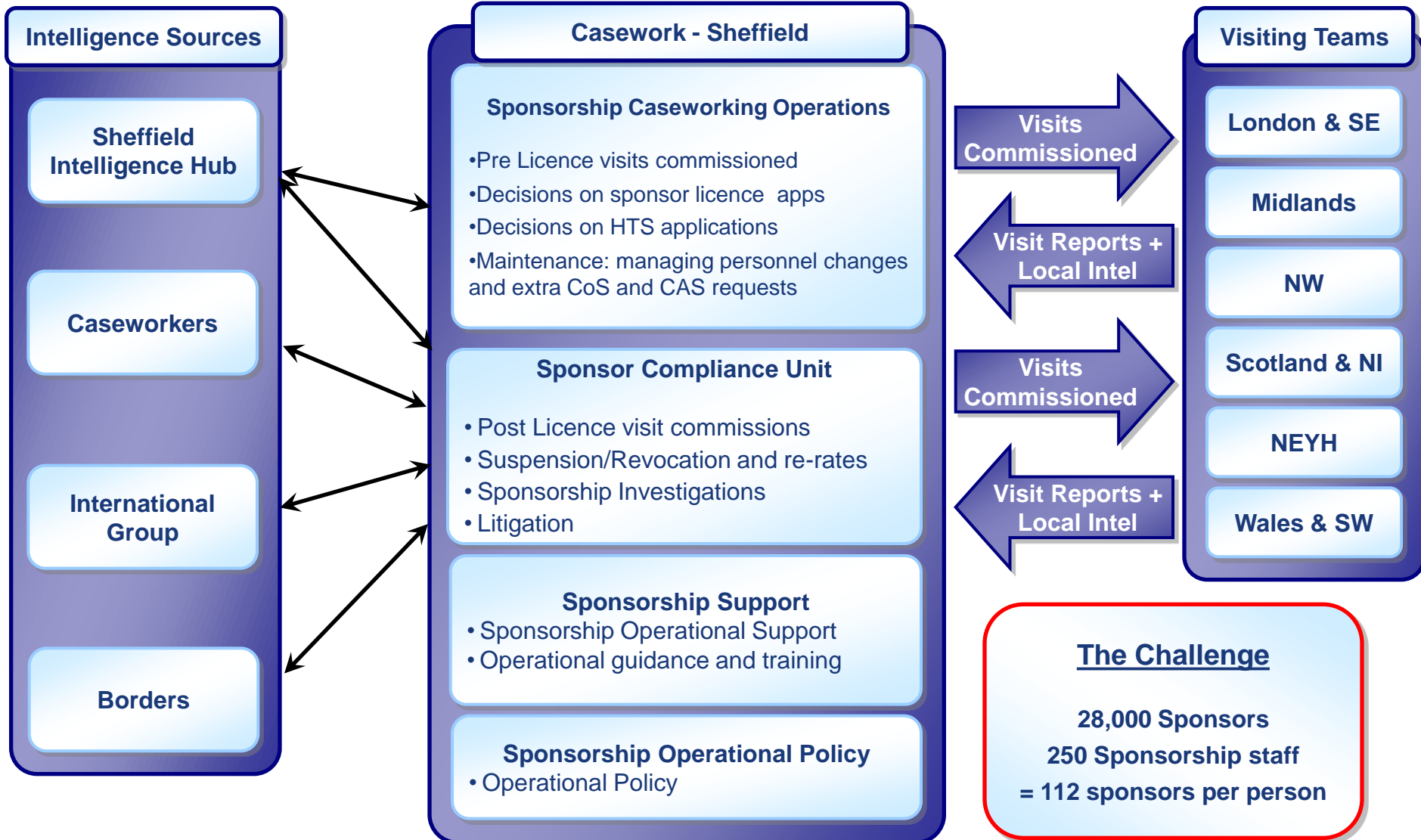
Officers attend events and forums

Fact-finding visits – for example specific students

At the request of the sponsor – help and advice



# Intelligence led compliance model





# Trend Management

**Sponsor Investigations Team**

**Dedicated Desk Officers**

**Coordinate visits and outcomes**



# 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



## Our preparation

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

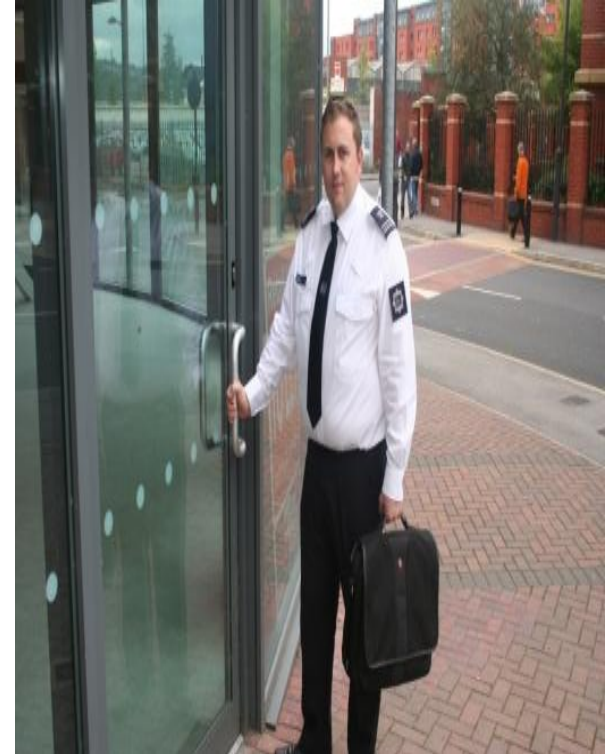
- *Continuity*

# You can expect

**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”



# HTS – A compliance measure

Assessment of track record of immigration compliance performance

Allows the Agency not only to be confident in systems, but also outputs

Objective numeric assessment, but we do have the ability to take a holistic view of the circumstances of a case



# HTS Processing

Processing time has, to date, been elongated because of the amount of **data** linked to each case

Partially automated system introduced in **June 2012** which has reduced manual casework time

A **service standard** will be introduced for HTS from April 2013





# HTS Review

An **operational review** of the first year of the new requirements

Not a review of the concept of HTS – but of the **mechanisms and processes**

Thoughts and ideas to:  
**[sponsorshipstrategyandcoordination@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sponsorshipstrategyandcoordination@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**





# Post-licence

Current queue of **6,400** requests – several hundred are received every week

Balancing resource against priorities – currently **increasing** Sponsorship casework resource

Will be introducing a **service standard** for post-licence work from April 2013



# Renewals

Vital that sponsors **apply** to renew their own licence if they wish to continue as a sponsor

We cannot automatically renew a licence – but we will issue **reminders** long before the renewal date

Providing a renewal application is submitted we will complete **100%** of validations before expiry



## Tier 4 Premium service - 2013

We launched a **Premium** Sponsorship service for Tier 2/5 sponsors in April 2012

It is a service designed to offer **relationship management** and **enhanced delivery** to sponsors who are part of the service

We are currently **piloting** the service for Tier 4 with a view to introducing it from April 2013



## Tier 4 Premium service - 2013

It currently offers a dedicated **Licence Manager**, and a **Senior Account Manager**.

**Advice and support** – such as monthly HTS updates

Enhanced processing times – **5 days** for a post-licence request



# Questions?

