



SHU Ofsted experience

3rd to 6th of March 2026



**Sheffield
Hallam
University**



One provision
type and
adult/HE setting

Coverage:

Apprenticeships at SHU

Preparation

Planning week

During Inspection

Grading criteria and evaluation area
approach

Inclusion

Lessons and learning

Reflections and tips

SHU grades

Q&A

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Apprenticeships at SHU

- Offered since 2015
- 32,000 students
- Circa 3,300 apprentices
- 35 standards across IS8+2 sectors
- Across all 3 academic colleges with large numbers of health, engineering, construction, Police Constable and Supply Chain Leader – vast majority at L6
- Last Inspection in 2022 (2000 apprentices) - growth from further intakes, new Engineering and Construction pathways and new standards in Health
- Delivery across professional services (coaches, QA, compliance and ILR) and academic teams

Preparation:

Self-assessed against the new EIF and applied 'secure fit'

Regularly updated QIP progress

Externally led Ofsted readiness and thematic reviews

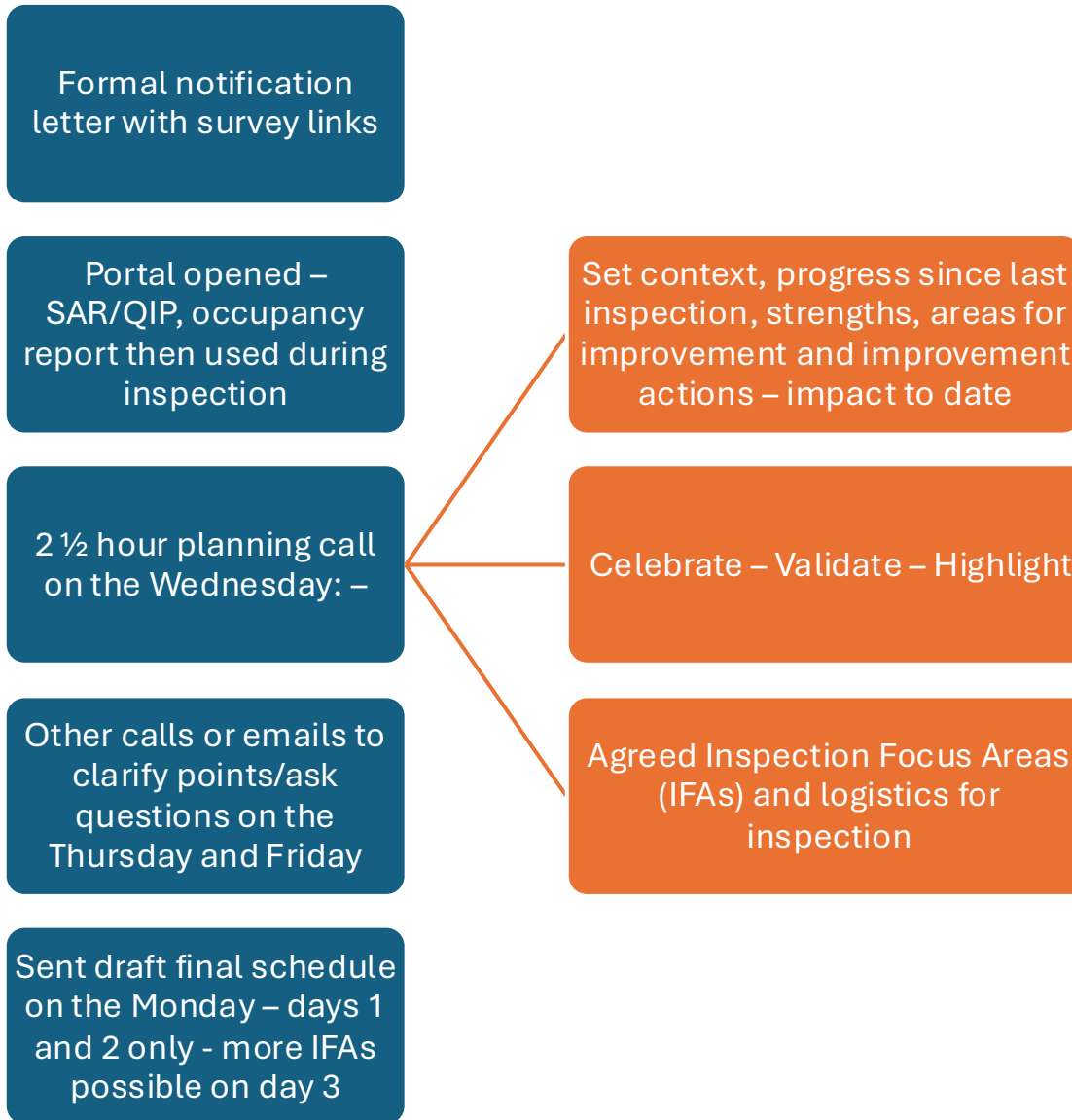
Position statements created at all levels using Toolkit

Assigned Leads and supporting roles with 'reserves'

Drafted an IFA wish list and a Scorecard of all programmes

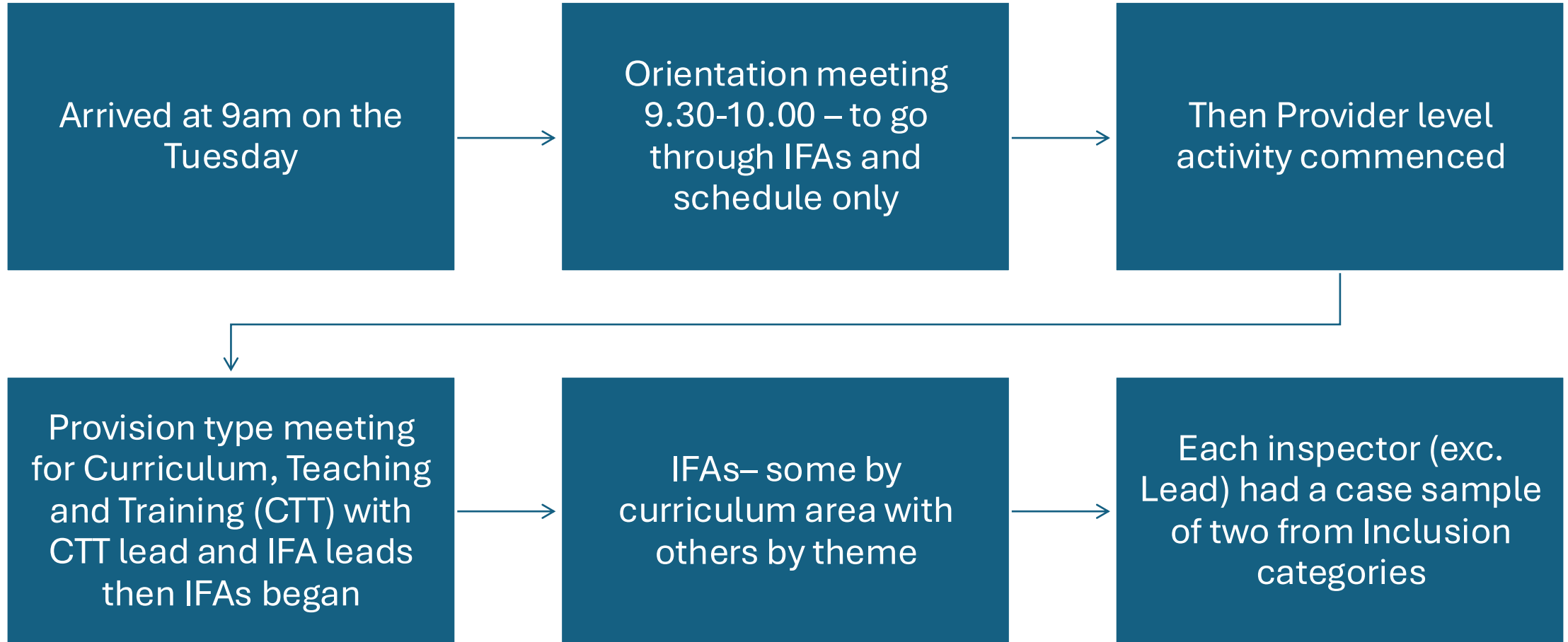
Held workshops, CPD and coaching conversations/mock meetings

Convened at Mobilisation Task and Finish group

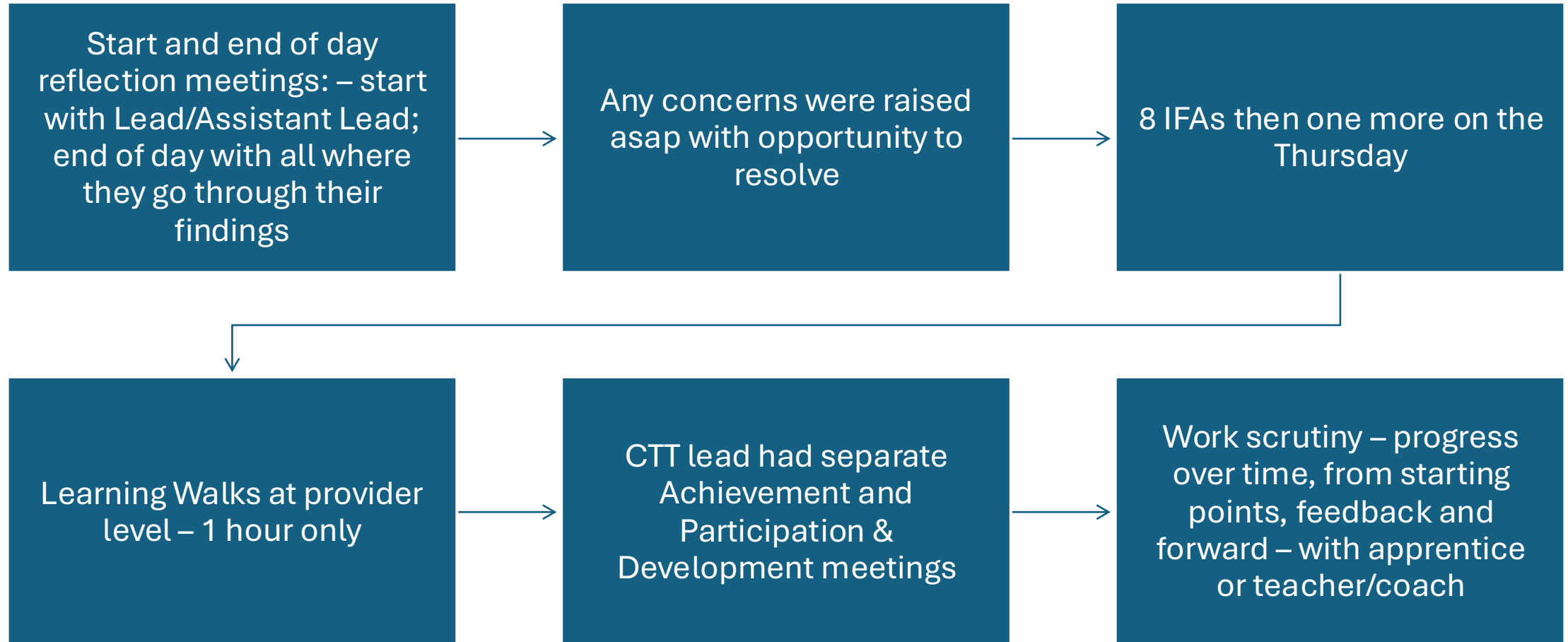


Post the notification call

During inspection:



During inspection:



The Visit Structure

Inspector	Lead Inspector	ALI	Provision-type lead	Team inspector	Team inspector
IFA	Leadership and Governance	Inclusion	Curriculum, Teaching and Training	Leadership and Management Provision	Teacher and subject expertise
SHU Academic Lead and Ops Lead					
09.30 – 10.00	Orientation meeting SHU attendees - Nominee, Shadow Nominee and L&G Lead	Orientation meeting	Orientation meeting	Orientation meeting	Orientation meeting
10.00 – 11.00	Safeguarding meeting	Inclusion – Learning Walk	Introduction meeting – Provision type	Introduction meeting – Provision type	Introduction meeting – Provision type
11.00 – 12.00	Leadership and Governance – Learning Walk	Desktop review	Achievement meeting (not IFA)	Welcome and overview of SBS provision	Welcome and Introduction presentation
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch and inspector reflection time	Lunch and inspector reflection time	Lunch and inspector reflection time	Lunch and inspector reflection time	Lunch and inspector reflection time
13.00 – 14.00	Safeguarding – document and single record review	Inclusion – tour of university facilities and discussions SU, Hallam Help, Library , Careers and Employability	Provision type - Learning walk New build and IoT tour	13.15 Apprentice call 13.30 Joint teaching observation	Conversation about our clinical, research and practice-informed approach in healthcare
15.00 – 16.00	Inspector reflection time	Inspector reflection time	Inspector reflection time	Joint work scrutiny time – review of CMDA module assessment and feedback with course leader	Deeper dive into Research Informed Teaching
16.00 – 16.30	Inspector reflection time	Inspector reflection time	Inspector reflection time	Inspector reflection time	Inspector reflection time
16.30-17.00	End-of-day reflection meeting SHU attendees: Nominee, Shadow	End-of-day reflection meeting	End-of-day reflection meeting	End-of-day reflection meeting	End-of-day reflection meeting

Evaluation area and grading criteria approach

- Start at Meets Expected Standard (despite self-assessment grades) – then move into strong but gathering both at same time
- Secure fit but proportionally applied – typically, generally....
- Inspectors constantly used the toolkit and grading grids

Evaluation Area	Coverage
Safeguarding	Introductory meeting, single record and mandatory training check, sample of records
Inclusion	see next slide
Leadership and Governance	Learning walk – Governance, QA/QI including of subcontractors, CPD, met lead course rep and partners/stakeholders
Curriculum, Teaching and Training	Introductory meeting with Lead and Team inspectors, Learning walk – tour of facilities, separate meetings for Achievement and P&D, focus group, staff meetings
Achievement	Walk through of occupancy report with outcomes by category, signed off 24/25 data (not yet on FESIT despite DfE reconciliation), work standard tested via IFA work scrutiny - explored further via IFA
Participation and Development	Presentation of how it is done at SHU (P&D on a page)

Then triangulation throughout via IFAs

Inclusion:

- Learning walk – presentation on 3 Is
- Tour of student support
- Scheme for embedding essentials walk through
- Samples of learning contracts, progress reviews
- Focus group
- Demos of learning support platforms, resources
- Outcomes by inclusion categories
- Case sampling

Lessons & Learning

- Preparing and readiness is key
- Planning week is intense
- Planning call presentation is the old L&G Introductory presentation
- IFAs still like Deep Dives but those by theme cut across all programmes
- Be cautious with 'Strong' – can find Needs Attention....
- Impact, Impact, Impact and triangulation is still key
- It does feel more collaborative and supportive: wellbeing checks; activities together; transparency and no surprises
- Celebrate, Validate, Highlight applied throughout

Advice and Tips:

- Prepare well
- Set out your stall in the planning call: SHU does it like this and this is why
- Logistics were a challenge – have a strong Core Ops team in base room
- Feels like a 2-week inspection – take time to decompress afterwards
- Be ready to get extra evidence
- Hold de-brief at end of day with leads - have strong leads for IFAs and Ops leads
- Use language from the Toolkit grading criteria
- Showcase best and most improved practice

Grades:

• Safeguarding: Met



• Inclusion: Strong

• Leadership &
Governance: Strong

• Curriculum
Teaching & Training:
Meets Expected
Standard

• Achievement:
Strong

• Participation &
Development:
Strong

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Questions?

