**What is a Control?**

After describing a risk and assessing the likelihood by the consequence (should the risk materialise) to arrive at the score of the risk, controls need to be identified. Controls are in essence “readymade”, and include anything that is already in place or to hand that could be used as immediate mitigation against the identified risk. So without leaving their desk or spending any money the risk manager should be able to identify what the Trust already has to “control” the risk. Controls are not to be confused with actions. Actions are “what’s left to do” after identifying any gaps in the controls, therefore the exercise of identifying controls in place is an important step in risk management.

**How to Measure Controls**

**Weak** – there no controls in place or there are some controls in place with numerous or significant gaps identified. Controls may not be sustainable/cost effective/ robust enough for the long term mitigation of a risk.

**Some weakness** - there are controls in place but some gaps have been identified which may lead to the control not being sustainable, cost effective or robust enough for long term management of the risk, or the control relies on external factors outside the control of the Trust.

**Satisfactory** – there are no identified gaps in the controls. Controls are embedded mechanisms that are robust, sustainable and financially viable for long term control of the risk.

**Uncertain** – further testing/audit of the controls may be required to ascertain their status.