**Purpose:**

To make use of an alternative form of brainstorming. Starbursting is a form of brainstorming.

Unlike brainstorming, Starbursting focuses on generating questions rather than answers. It is a useful tool to support problem solving or decision-making processes by helping people to understand the options and issues more fully.

The model is based upon six core questions: why, what, when, how, which and where? Often Starbursting is used iteratively (i.e. further layers of questions are used to interrogate and investigate each answer in much the same way as the Five Whys technique).

Generating and asking questions in this way can be invaluable when trying to understand a new idea, concept, product or process. The technique enables people to challenge and examine the idea, issue or scenario in depth before implementing the solution or decision.

**Directions:**

Step 1: Draw a star and write the questions Why, How, Where, When, Which and What at the tip of each point of the star with the issue, problem or topic being discussed in the middle of the star. Example image shown below.

Step 2: Begin to brainstorm questions about the issue, problem or topic starting with these questions. At this stage do not try to answer or address any of these questions as that is a later stage. The questions will begin to radiate out from the central star in layers which will help to provide greater depth of analysis in the next stage.

Step 3: Finally, work through all of the questions and if necessary add another layer on some of the star’s spikes to drill even deeper to further insight and understanding. 