

**Mandate:**

The [mandate](#) of the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee (CYFAC) is to advise Council and staff on matters that relate to children, youth and families.

- Advises Council and staff on the development, implementation, and assessment of City policies and services related to children, youth, and families
- Advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for children, youth, and families
- Identifies opportunities to empower children and youth to have a voice in civic decision-making

**Mayor + Council Strategic Objectives ([Priorities](#)) - Vibrant Vancouver**

- 1. Vibrant and diverse** - We do all we can to ensure Vancouver is a dynamic and vibrant city, with a great range of exciting and engaging amenities and events throughout the city.
- 2. Housing** - We work with senior governments and other partners to address the local housing crisis, with the goal of ensuring that appropriate housing options are available for everyone in Vancouver.
- 3. Supporting business** - We ensure the City is doing our part to ensure our local economy is robust and resilient, and Vancouver is a place in which businesses can thrive and succeed.
- 4. City Services and Infrastructure** - We deliver high-quality city services and public infrastructure that make Vancouver a healthy, safe, beautiful and enjoyable place for everyone.
- 5. Safety and security** - We work to provide effective emergency response and emergency planning services that make Vancouver safe and enjoyable for everyone.
- 6. Climate emergency** - We are responding to the climate emergency through environmental initiatives, greenhouse gas emission reductions, and climate change adaptation measures.
- 7. Healthy, inclusive, and equitable** - We put Vancouverites' physical and mental health front and centre as we make service, infrastructure and policy decisions, and strive to alleviate barriers to residents' well-being and sense of belonging.
- 8. Reconciliation** - We maintain mutually respectful relationships with and work to support and advance the rights of local Indigenous Nations and urban Indigenous Peoples.
- 9. Good government** - We responsibly steward the public funds with which we are entrusted, ensure we have an efficient administrative infrastructure, and maintain a high-performing, engaged workforce.

**CYFAC, Work Plan Objectives:**

**1: Explore and advise on strategies related to the current “child-care gap” in Vancouver**

The Committee will expand and align its knowledge on the issue and develop recommendations around Vancouver's “childcare gap” for city staff and council to consider. This objective is in alignment with priorities 1, 4, 7, 8

**2: Explore and advise on strategies related to youth mental health support in schools and community**

The Committee will expand and align its knowledge of the current strategies and initiatives in place to support youth mental health in schools and community, specifically related counselling and youth peer groups, and advise on recommendations for city staff and council to consider. This objective is in alignment with COV priorities 1, 4, 5,7, 8

**3: Explore and advise on strategies related to middle years and youth program staffing**

The Committee will expand its knowledge of middle years development initiatives, and youth program staff support, and advise on recommendations for city staff and council to review. This objective is in alignment with priorities 1, 4, 5, 7,8

**4:Use the committee's knowledge in objectives 1, 2, and 3 to support advocacy work within the municipal and provincial levels of government.**

The Committee will expand its existing knowledge on the issues mentioned in objectives 1,2 and 3, and create recommendations for provincial and federal governments to consider. This objective is in alignment with priorities 1, 4, 8, 9

**5: Explore CYFAC composition, and revise if the current structure enables the mandate to succeed. Core to include the voices of children and youth, adults and people with lived experience, in various areas of City planning.**

The Committee will expand its existing knowledge of the CYFAC composition policies and provide recommendations for city staff and council to consider. This objective is in alignment with priorities 1, 4,7, 8, and 9

**Action Plan:**

<b>Objective 1 Explore and advise on strategies related to the current child-care gap in Vancouver</b>			
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Timeline + Responsibility</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Increase awareness and education of the current childcare gap in Vancouver to the committee through city staff and select presentations.</li> <li>B. CYFAC dialogues on strategies and suggestions.</li> <li>C. Identify key areas of interest to prioritize focus.</li> <li>D. Create a working document for the committee's recommendations and input.</li> </ul>	2024-2026, entire committee	Develop recommendations for city staff and council to review	Staff liaisons, city clerks  Requests: ChildCare + Infrastructure
<b>Objective 2 Explore and advise on strategies related to youth mental health support in schools and community</b>			
<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Timeline + Responsibility</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Partners</b>

<p>A. Increase awareness and education on current youth mental health supports offered in Vancouver to the committee through city staff, and potential presentations from partners.</p> <p>B. CYFAC dialogues on strategies and suggestions.</p> <p>C. Identify key areas of interest to prioritize focus.</p> <p>D. Create a working document for the committee's final recommendations and input.</p>	<p>2023-2026, entire committee</p>	<p>Review and educate the committee on current mental health and counselling options available for youth in public schools and community programs.</p> <p>Develop recommendations for city staff and council to review</p>	<p>Staff liaisons, city clerks</p> <p>Requests: VSB, VCH, VPB - Community Centers</p>
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**Objective 3 Explore and advise on strategies related to middle years and youth staff training**

Action Items	Timeline + Responsibility	Expected Outcomes	Partners
<p>A. Increase awareness and education on middle years initiatives and front-line staff support offered in Vancouver to the committee through city staff.</p> <p>B. Review and vote on the <a href="#">Building Safer Communities Program (BSCP)</a>.</p> <p>C. CYFAC Dialogues on strategies and suggestions.</p> <p>D. Create a working document for the committee's final input.</p>	<p>2023-2026, entire committee</p>	<p>Education on current city initiatives, development of strategies concerning middle years and youth program staffing</p> <p>The committee reviewed, advised, and voted in favour of the BSCP strategy. <i>(completed fall 2023)</i></p> <p>Develop recommendations for city staff and council to review</p>	<p>Staff liaisons, city clerks</p>

**Objective 4 Use the committee's knowledge in objectives 1, 2, and 3 to support advocacy work within the municipal and provincial levels of government.**

Action Items	Timeline + Responsibility	Expected Outcomes	Partners
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<p>A. Review working documents of objectives 1, 2 and 3.</p> <p>B. Develop high-level recommendations and communication (re: youth advocacy, childcare, and middle years support) for municipal and provincial government review.</p>	<p>2025-2026, entire committee</p>	<p>Develop high-level recommendations for city staff and council to review and share with the provincial government.</p>	<p>Staff liaisons, city clerks</p>
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**Objective 5: Explore CYFAC composition, and revise if the current structure enables the mandate to succeed. Core to include the voices of children and youth, adults and people with lived experience, in various areas of City planning**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Timeline + Responsibility</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<p>A. Identify if the committee structure is meeting the current needs of city staff and council.</p>	<p>2024-2026, entire committee</p>	<p>Develop recommendations for city staff and council to review</p>	<p>Staff liaisons, city clerks</p>