Census 2011 Factsheet: Language

Summary of Findings

- 90% of Sutton residents would consider English their main language
- Tamil (1%) and Polish (1%) are the other most commonly reported languages spoken in Sutton
- The 25-34 age groups have the lowest amount who would consider English their main language
- Only 1% of Sutton’s population reported that they cannot speak English well or at all.

Link to table on ONS website:
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/dc2104ew (main language by sex by age)
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/dc2105ew (proficiency in English by sex by age)

This briefing note looks at Question 18 and 19 of the census which asked:

- What is your main language? (English or Other)
- How well can you speak English? (Very well, well, not well, not at all)

English as a main language

Currently Sutton has higher levels of residents reporting English as their main language compared to London (78%). However, Sutton is slightly lower than the average for England.
Looking across the different age groups reveals there are some slight differences. As the graph shows we can see that between 25-34 year olds there is a lower proportion who would consider English as their main language. This age group currently makes up 14% of the overall population of Sutton and is most likely to be the most economically active group. It is therefore more likely to have a higher percentage of economic migrants.

Proficiency in English

As we can see only 1% of Sutton’s population have reported that they cannot speak English well or at all. This is lower than both London (4%) and England (2%). The graph also shows that unlike London there is no significant difference in the ability to speak English across the genders.