Census 2011 Factsheet: Provision of Unpaid Care

Summary of findings

- The number of people in Sutton who reported that they were providing unpaid care rose to 18,300 in 2011, a 13.4% increase on the total for 2001 of 16,100.
- This increase is broadly in line with results elsewhere: in London, the number of carers rose by 12.7% and in England as a whole the number rose by 10.9%.
- 9.6% of Sutton’s population reported that they were carers, higher than the average for London of 8.5%, but lower than the national average of 10.4%.
- 68% of carers in Sutton were providing between 1 and 19 hours of care a week. That is higher than the averages for London and England of 63% and 64% respectively.
- 7% of Sutton’s carers were aged under 24; 38% were between 25 and 39; 35% were between 50 and 64; and 19% were over 65. Sutton has a higher age profile than the average for London.
- The highest rate of caring in Sutton was among the 50 to 64 age group, with nearly 20% of people in that range providing unpaid care.
- 76.4% of carers in Sutton reported that they were in good health; and just over 5% said their health was bad or very bad. Carers as a group are therefore less healthy than the general population, where 84.6% of people in Sutton said they were in good health.
- The proportion of carers reporting poor health increased with the amount of care being provided, with nearly 11% of carers who provided 50 or more hours of care a week reporting that their health was bad or very bad.
- 84% of Sutton’s carers were White compared to 78.6% of Sutton’s overall population.
- 58.4% of Sutton’s carers are female compared to 51.3% of Sutton’s population. Of those carers providing 50 or more hours per week of care, 62.3% are female.

[Please see the Factsheet on ‘Economic Activity’ for further information on carers’ occupation.]

Link to tables on ONS website:
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC3303EW (Unpaid care by health, sex and age)
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC2301EW (Unpaid care by ethnicity and health)

This briefing note looks at Question 14 of the census which asked:

“Do you look after, or give any help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either:
• long-term physical or mental ill-health / disability?
• problems related to old age?
Do not count anything you do as part of your paid employment"
General

Around 18,300 people in Sutton reported that they provided unpaid care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision of unpaid care by age</th>
<th>All categories: Provision of unpaid care</th>
<th>Age 0 to 24</th>
<th>Age 25 to 49</th>
<th>Age 50 to 64</th>
<th>Age 65 and over</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All categories: Provision of unpaid care</td>
<td>188,695¹</td>
<td>57,592</td>
<td>72,283</td>
<td>32,515</td>
<td>26,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides unpaid care: Total</td>
<td>18,285</td>
<td>1,361</td>
<td>7,008</td>
<td>6,369</td>
<td>3,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: Provides 1 to 19 hours unpaid care a week</td>
<td>12,429</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>4,797</td>
<td>4,662</td>
<td>1,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: Provides 20 to 49 hours unpaid care a week</td>
<td>2,237</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>918</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: Provides 50 or more hours unpaid care a week</td>
<td>3,619</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>1,293</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>1,212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Numbers of Carers

Across the country the number of people reporting that they provide unpaid care for someone else has increased compared to 2001. The largest percentage increase in the number of carers has come in the '20 hours or more' of care a week category. The graph below shows the % increase in carers in Sutton, London and England by the amount of care provided.

The number of carers as a percentage of the population rose slightly in Sutton between 2001 and 2011 from 9% to 9.7%. In London the proportion remained static at 8.5% and in England as a whole it rose from 9.4% to 10.4%. The graph below shows the % of the population who reported that they were providing care.

¹ The total is less than the overall population of Sutton (190,100) as not all people answered the questions about unpaid care.
Age Groups of Carers

The profile of Sutton's carers shows they are generally older than the average for London, but broadly in line with the profile for England as a whole.

The more hours per week a carer is providing, the more likely it is that the carer is in the older age group. For example, the graph below shows the breakdown by age of those carers providing 50 or more hours of care a week.
As a percentage of the population in each age group, people aged 50 to 64 are the most likely age group to be providing unpaid care.

However, as a percentage of the population, over 65s are the most likely to care for someone for 50 hours or more per week.
Health of Carers

In Sutton overall, 84.6% of people said that their health was very good or good. But only 76.4% of carers reported the same. This pattern is repeated in London and in England as a whole.

Carers who are caring for 50 hours or more per week are more likely to have poor health, but Sutton’s carers in that group are marginally more healthy than the average for London and England.
Ethnicity of Carers

Sutton’s population is 78.6% white. The group of carers, however, are more predominantly white, with 84.3% of them classifying themselves as such. This is most likely due to the fact that a large proportion of the carers are in the higher age groups which are less ethnically diverse.

The rate of caring among different ethnic groups is shown in the graph below.
**Gender of carers**

There is a higher proportion of female carers than the general population and that proportion increases the greater the amount of care that is provided each week.